



development news

Besito Mexican restaurant opens in Westshore, Tampa

KIMBERLY PATTERSON | TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015

The new Besito Restaurant in the Westshore neighborhood of Tampa adds spice to the district. As you walk around restaurant row at Westshore Plaza, you will see a new kid is on the block, one that packs a refined and savory punch.

Besito, which is located in the 7,500-square-foot space vacated by The Palm steakhouse, opened its doors to the public in April. According to owner John Tunney, his restaurant is the perfect urban joint for locals.

“The people of Tampa enjoy dining, they go out a lot, they understand food, they understand recipes, they understand cocktails, all in all they’re foodies,” he says. “So we are giving them what they want. Our cuisine is very authentic from central and southern Mexico. When you come here, you will have a culinary experience, you will feel like you are in Mexico.”

The menu offers authentic recipes that include steak, chicken and seafood, guacamole made tableside, and a variety of cocktails, not to mention 75 different types of tequila. Tunney says what sets his restaurant apart from others is the flavors found in the food.

“We balance the flavors so the food is not too spicy,” says Joe Mugenski, Executive Chef at [Besito](#).

“The flavors are incredible,” adds Alan Reynolds, also Executive Chef. “Everything is made from scratch every day.”

Beyond the food, Tunney points out the décor of the restaurant also adds to the experience.

“The décor is inspired by my own travels in Mexico,” he says. “The masks we have over the lighting pieces around the walls are actually made after a mask I found on a beach during one of my trips to Mexico. Every detail, everything you see, there is a reason for it.”

Besito is located at [Westshore Plaza](#) across from [Mitchell’s Fish Market](#) in the space once occupied by The Palm.

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