

**FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF
TAMPA@BESITOMEXICAN.COM**

From the Tampa Bay Business Journal:

<http://www.bizjournals.com/tampabay/news/2015/03/23/besito-mexican-restaurant-sets-opening-in.html>

Besito Mexican restaurant sets opening in Westshore for early April

Mar 23, 2015, 2:12pm EDT

Restaurant construction is akin to running a mile race — steady for the first three quarters or so, and a full-out kick to the finish.

That's where Besito, the much-anticipated polished casual Mexican restaurant being developed by former Outback Steakhouse execs, finds itself.



ERIC SNIDER

The 7,500-square-foot eatery next to Maggiano's at **Westshore Plaza** in Tampa is set to open April 8, said Partner/Florida Region Stanley Goodman. That's a couple weeks past ownership's original projection of March 25. The space looks it. It's very much still a construction site. "The

last phase of these restaurant buildouts come together very quickly," Goodman said. (**See progress of the buildout in the photo gallery.**)

With "fast casual" concepts like Chipotle experiencing the fastest growth among restaurant categories, is Tampa ready for a white-tablecloth Mexican place?

"Data shows that Mexican is the second fastest-growing cuisine in the U.S.," Goodman explained. "We looked at this market and asked, 'What's not saturated?' There are obviously a lot of Mexican restaurants around, but not much in the way of authentic, upscale Mexican."

Goodman said he has completed the hiring process— with a workforce of about a hundred.

Want more Tampa Bay business news in your inbox? Sign up for our email newsletters.

Eric Snider

Reporter

Tampa Bay Business Journal

