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Jesse Morreale announces the Thunderbird Imperial Lounge



Courtesy of Thunderbird Imperial Lounge

Jesse Morreale (left) and chef Goose Sorenson (right) of the Thunderbird Imperial Lounge.

By **JUSTIN DE LA ROSA** | jdelarosa.denverpost@gmail.com

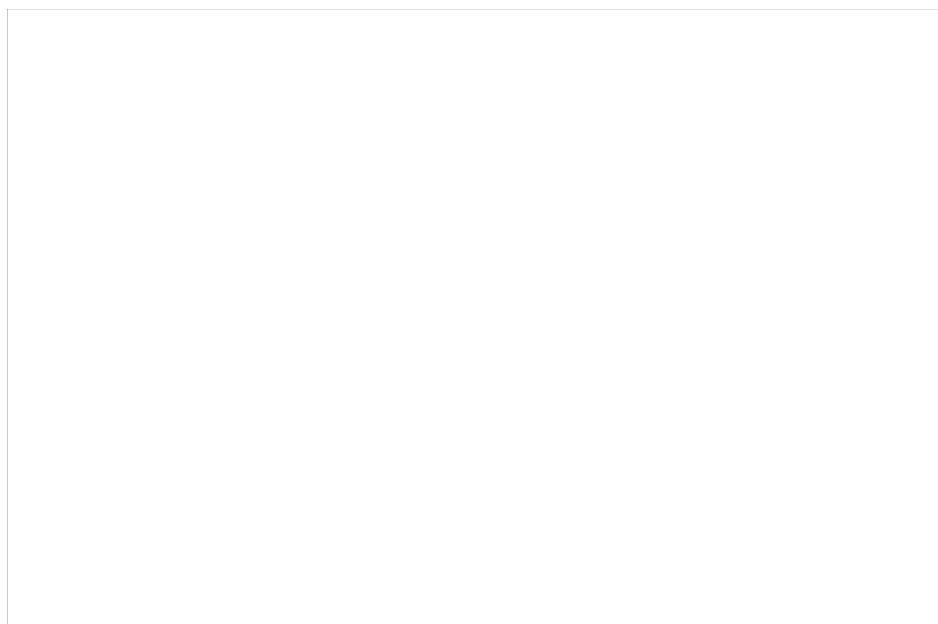
October 18, 2016 at 12:35 pm

The Thunderbird Imperial Lounge is the new restaurant being developed by restaurateur Jesse Morreale and his partners, Larimer Associates/City Street Investors. It will be located at 3759 Lipan St., bordering the Highland and Sunnyside neighborhoods.

According to Morreale, Thunderbird will dish up old-school comfort food in a setting inspired by nostalgia from the 1970s, '80s and '90s. The concept is somewhat of a departure for Morreale, who previously owned El Diablo, Mezcal and Sketch Wine Bar – all centrally focused on Mexican or Italian cuisines.

“In terms of the food and design, this one is a little bit more of a destination and a gathering place,” said Morreale. “It will be as much of a bar as it is a restaurant – lots of food and plenty of sports going on. People will be able to come in and eat, hang out and watch Broncos games.”

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Chef Goose Sorenson of Solera signed on to develop the menu for the Thunderbird. “This will be elevated comfort food that’s approachable, affordable and enjoyable,” said Morreale. Expect classics such as burgers, sandwiches, wings, salads and specialty plates.

The Thunderbird’s location has seen its fair share of turnover recently. TAG Burger Bar shuttered earlier this year, shortly after taking over from Sunnyside Burger Bar, which opened in 2014. Before that, the Subway Tavern occupied the space for more than 50 years. Morreale sees the potential of the location.

“It’s kind of straddled on the border of these two distinct neighborhoods like Highland, which is just south, and Sunnyside, which is just across 38th. They’re very different neighborhoods, and it’s a great dichotomy,” Morreale said.

“I like the challenge of being on a significant traffic corridor and of coming up with the appropriate place for where we are, and tailor what we’re offering and how it’s prepared and presented to accommodate the neighborhood we’re in.”

Morreale couldn’t provide an exact opening date.

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Justin De La Rosa, food writer at The Denver Post.

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