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Take It Over

New area restaurants offer plenty of space for private events and buyouts.

Top Chef alum Brian Malarkey's **Green Acre** restaurant embraces nature with a two-floor concept that opens to an adjoining canyon overlooking Interstate 805. Open since February 2015, the 20,000-square-foot venue includes several private rooms that seat as many as 250 guests. Green Acre also includes an on-site organic garden and event lawn. (10300 Campus Pointe Drive, 858.450.9907, greenacresd.com)

Located steps away from the Coronado Ferry Landing, **Shima**

Japanese Steakhouse opened in May. The 8,000-square-foot space seats 269 people and integrates hibachi-style cooking with authentic Japanese food set in a modern appointed interior. Restaurant buyouts are available. (126 Orange Ave., Coronado, 619.435.1775, shimacoronado.com)

Opened in March 2015, **San Diego Water Grill** encompasses two stories near Petco Park. After a multimillion-dollar renovation to the historic building, the sprawling,

11,000-square-foot venue now offers several private rooms, an illuminated keg room, and live seafood tanks. It holds as many as 350 people for receptions. (615 J St., 619.717.6992, watergrill.com)

Blush Ice Bar & East-West Kitchen is an upscale venue in the Gaslamp district. Opened in August, the 7,000-square-foot Asian-fusion restaurant features a light-filled entrance, communal tables, and two bar areas. It seats 180 guests. (555 Market St., 619.501.9158, sandiego.blushicebar.com)

Open since May, Mission Valley's **Wood Ranch BBQ & Grill** is the concept's 15th Southern California location. Warm wood interiors, tables, and booths make up the 7,000-square-foot space that includes patio seating. The restaurant seats as many as 310 guests with

ample parking outside. Wood Ranch is available for buyouts. (7510 Hazard Center Drive, Suite 215, 619.764.4411, woodranch.com)

Pan-Asian fusion meets sleek decor at **Ocean Pacific Grille**, which debuted in June. With dark wood decor, the restaurant has 4,000 square feet and can be split into two areas. Adjacent to the kitchen, the dining room seats 85 people; the second space seats 75. Restaurant buyouts are available. (531 F St., 619.578.2828, oceanpacificgrille.com)

A branch of the popular Los Angeles eatery **Café Gratitude** opened in July in Little Italy. The casual dining restaurant, which serves a plant-based menu, covers 4,000 square feet and has indoor and outdoor seating for about 120 guests. (1980 Kettner Blvd., 619.736.5077, cafeatitude.com)

IN THE WORKS

A new hotel headed to the Gaslamp quarter is the **Pendry San Diego**, projected to open in the fall of 2016. The property, located blocks from the San Diego Convention Center, will offer more than 22,000 square feet of meeting space, along with 317 guest rooms, two restaurants, a lounge, a beer hall, and a rooftop pool.

Acclaimed chef Rick Bayless's **Red O** concept is coming to University City's UTC area. The restaurant is under construction and is slated to open later in 2016.

A two-hotel campus featuring **Hilton Garden Inn San Diego Downtown/Bayside** and **Homewood Suites** will be near Little Italy and the San Diego Bay. The project, slated to finish in the spring of 2016, will include 3,800 square feet of meeting and event space.

TOURS



New Orleans-based **Bespoke Experiences** (619.363.3933, bespokeprivatetours.com), a new service in the San Diego area specializing in custom luxury travel itineraries for groups, designs private tours and experiences, include kayaking, sailing, and surfing lessons along the Sunset Cliffs. Itineraries are individualized and can be based on themes such as history, architecture, authentic culture, natural scenery, or adventure. Tours are available for four, six, or eight hours with a guide and transportation. Pricing is available upon request. —M.L.