



The Dish: chef moves, openings, closings and pink deals

By Pam Kragen and Kelly Sauer • U-T 6:03 P.M. OCT. 15, 2014

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COMMENTS

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CHEFS ON THE MOVE

Carlsbad's West Steak and Seafood has a new executive chef.

Dave Abella joined the fine dining restaurant at West Inn & Suites this month, replacing longtime chef Eugenio Martignano, who left in September.

Abella will oversee the steakhouse as well as the 3-acre garden in east Carlsbad that supplies produce to both West Steak and Seafood and its sister restaurant Bistro West.

“West is an amazing venue and is one of the best dining experiences in Northern San Diego,” Abella said, in a press release. “I’m grateful to have a resource like the West farm where I can utilize the seasonal produce and am excited to put my own eclectic style on the cuisine which will be ever changing. I’m a customer oriented chef and enjoy giving the unexpected.”



Dave Abella, new executive chef at West Steak and Seafood in Carlsbad.

Born in Hawaii, Abella spent 20 years working as an executive chef and corporate executive chef for the Euro-Asian chain Roy's Restaurants, run by chef Roy Yamaguchi. He also worked at Felix Restaurant at the Peninsula Hotel in Hong Kong.

Abella said he plans to incorporate Asian herbs, Hawaiian seafood, a variety of vegetarian dishes and modern appetizers in his debut menu at West. He said he enjoys Italian, French and Mediterranean cuisine, as well.

Abella joins **Jeff Campagna**, who last month was appointed the new executive chef at Bistro West.

Campagna has more than 30 years in the restaurant business, including stints at Z in Los Altos and Southern Exposure Bistro in Aptos, as well as serving for many years as a private chef to celebrities including Harry Connick Jr. and Mikhail Gorbachev.