

Scottsdale Goes InterContinental

The InterContinental Hotel & Resorts has opened its first U.S. resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. The InterContinental Montelucia Resort & Spa, located in Paradise Valley, is a 34-acre oasis reflecting the Andalusia region of Spain.

Of the six dining options on property, Prado, the signature restaurant, features a Spanish style menu of meats and seafood grilled in a wood-burning oven. Prado offers an eclectic selection of domestic and international wines, as well as signature cocktails from Mbar, located within the restaurant.

Mbar features more than 60 premium tequilas, and the cocktails exhibit Latin flair, with names like the Amante Picante, Montilla Manhattan, Montelucia, Sorrentino and Fandango. A favorite is the Spanish Mojito,



PHOTO: ALLISON LEVINE

Head Bartender Chris Walls mixes a cocktail.

a Moroccan approach to this classic made with fig, star anise, fennel seeds, Flor de Caña Four-Year-Old Extra Dry light rum, mint, lime juice and Valencia oranges.

—Allison Levine



PHOTO: ALLISON LEVINE

Rockin' Bottles

BottleRock wine bar and retail store launches its second location in Downtown Los Angeles in February 2009. BottleRock opened its first location in Culver City in 2006 with the only of its kind wine-by-the-glass policy. While most wine bars select a variety of wines to offer by the glass each night, BottleRock allows its customers to taste any wine they want that is in the store. Customers must buy a minimum of two glasses in order to open a bottle; the remainder will be offered on the by-the-glass board for anyone else who comes in that night. Customers may also buy full bottles in the retail shop. Concept Chef Sherie Farah has created a Mediterranean-inspired small plates and cheese menu to pair with the more than 700 selections of wine.

The new downtown location is located at 1050 South Flower Street, Los Angeles, at the corner of 11th Street, on the street level of the Metropolitan lofts near the Staples Center and LA Live.

—Allison Levine ■■

The BottleRock team, from left: interior designer Ernie Roth of Ernie Roth Interiors, proprietor Fred Hakim, BottleRock Downtown General Manager George Skorka, BottleRock Culver City General Manager Randi Leehan, proprietor Dr. Isaac Hakim and Concept Chef Sherie Farah.