

Mina reveals name, menu, reality-star partner for restaurant

Bungalow Kitchen Tiburon is slated to open in spring

By **DEIRDRE McCROHAN**
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More than two years after announcing plans for a downtown shoreline restaurant from Michelin-starred chef Michael Mina, his Mina Group has confirmed the celebrity cuisinier is teaming up with Hollywood nightclub mogul and reality-TV star Brent Bolthouse for The Bungalow Kitchen Tiburon, part of a collaboration they began together in Southern California.

The restaurant is slated to open in spring at the former 5 Main St. home of Guaymas Mexican restaurant and will feature California cuisine with an emphasis on local ingredients, clas-

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19th annual belvedere community foundation photo contest



Winner — **Black & White:** Leela Voges for 'Lovely Bones.'



Winner — **'Reflections on 2020':** Melville Owen for 'No Fiddlers on this Roof.'



Winner — **Architecture:** Matthew James Gormley for 'Sunset Skyline.'

Belvedere to look into carcinogenic potential of rubber playground surface

By **HANNAH WEIKEL**
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Belvedere parks officials are facing tough questions about whether a pour-in-place rubber surface material that's planned for Belvedere Community Park playground contains cancer-causing chemicals — and whether exposure to those chemicals would be hazardous to children.

As it currently stands, officials say a manufacturer for the rubber surface has not been decided on, so they don't know whether the material will con-

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Capturing scenes of the Tiburon Peninsula

See story on page 12



Winner — **Wildlife:** Joan Moir for 'Pelicans and Cormorant on Election Day.'



Winner — **Landscapes:** Helga Mispelblom Beyer for 'Foggy Morning at Blackie's Pasture.'



Winner — **Youth 5-18:** Morgan Sicklick for 'Years Go By ...'

Residents weigh in on traits for next top cop

By **DEIRDRE McCROHAN**
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Transparency, communication and experience were among the qualities community members said they were looking for in a new Tiburon police chief at two Nov. 19 virtual workshops aimed at collecting public input on the potential hire.

About two dozen people combined attended the forums, which were organized and facilitated by Mark Helms of Public Sector Search and

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Reed district shoots down idea to let kids Zoom into class

By **EMILY LAVIN**
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The Reed Union School District won't explore allowing students who have opted out of in-person instruction amid the pandemic to participate in on-campus classes via Zoom, something a group of local parents has been advocating over the past few months.

In discussions at their Nov. 17 teleconference meeting, members of the district board generally agreed they

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inside

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- District offering COVID-19 testing, page 8



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VIA THE MINA GROUP

Artist renderings show the second-floor roof terrace (left) and the first-floor bar and social-dining area planned for The Bungalow Kitchen Tiburon at 5 Main St., set to open in spring.

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sic cocktails, an expansive wine list and a clubhouse atmosphere that is both “chic” and “bohemian,” according to Mina Group spokeswoman Nicole Lax.

Lax said menu highlights will include:

- Mina’s signature lobster pot pie, featuring a whole Maine lobster, truffle-lobster bisque and root vegetables.
- A garden “punch” bowl, featuring crunchy, cold garden vegetables served with gazpacho shooters and dipping sauces.
- A short rib ‘Pop-Tart’ topped with crispy shallots and bordelaise sauce.
- House-made pizzas such as the carbonara pizza, a white pie with crispy guanciale, or pork cheek, Yukon gold potatoes, pecorino romano and a poached egg.

Lax described the interior as having a “relaxed residential feel with a contemporary California twist, showcasing an eclectic selection of art and artisanal touches that reflect the bohemian vibe of artists from a bygone era.”

It has been designed by architect and interior designer Martin Brudnizki, whose portfolio includes Annabel’s, a private club in London, and The Beekman hotel in New York.

The first-floor bar and dining area of the two-story, 12,000-square-foot restaurant will be done in a cool-toned palette of blues and pinks, according to renderings provided to The Ark and project descriptions. A large window will open onto a dining terrace with views out to San Francisco Bay and the city skyline. Upstairs, a billiard room will open onto a large pergola-roofed terrace. The furniture will be rattan with patterned fabrics and the finishes in brass and marble. Greenery will be planted throughout and artwork evoking a bohemian sensibility will hang on the walls.



JERRITT CLARK

Marin-based executive chef Michael Mina (left) and entertainment-and-hospitality entrepreneur Brent Bolthouse have teamed up for Bungalow Kitchen restaurants in Tiburon and Long Beach.

Egyptian-born Mina, who lives in Nicasio, got his big break when working with Executive Chef George Morrone at the Bel Air Hotel in Los Angeles, then followed Morrone to San Francisco to work at Aqua. He took over there as executive chef when Morrone retired, earning numerous awards and global acclaim.

He partnered with tennis star Andre Agassi in 2002 to form The Mina Group, which owns 40 restaurants in the U.S., including eight in San Francisco, such as Mina Family Kitchen, International Smoke, Trailblazer Tavern and namesake Michael Mina, which in 2006 earned two Michelin stars.

Bolthouse is an entrepreneur, club promoter and DJ known among reality-TV addicts for his five-season stint on MTV’s “The Hills.”

Though The Mina Group called The

Bungalow Kitchen Mina’s first collaboration with longtime friend Bolthouse, Bolthouse in 2008 worked on Mina’s now-shuttered XIV Restaurant in Los Angeles while with SBE Entertainment Group.

His own Bungalow Hospitality Group opened its flagship restaurant and bar The Bungalow in 2012 at The Fairmont Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica and followed with The Bungalow Huntington Beach in 2016.

In November 2018, he announced his partnership with The Mina Group to open The Bungalow Long Beach and The Bungalow La Jolla, with menus created by Mina.

Though Mina had announced his Tiburon restaurant two months earlier in an exclusive to The Ark, neither The Mina Group nor Bolthouse signaled the local eatery was part of their collaboration.

However, when The Mina Group brought its concept to the Tiburon Design Review

Board for approval that November, representatives described the restaurant as having a “bohemian” “beatnik poets’ bungalow” vibe, and The Ark soon learned the restaurant carried the working name The Bungalow Kitchen.

Even as the name, description and artist renderings of the design fueled speculation the Tiburon restaurant was affiliated with the Southern California Bungalow concepts, The Mina Group and Bolthouse continued to decline comment to The Ark on whether the Tiburon restaurant would be an extension of that collaboration.

The plans for the two new Southern California Bungalow locations stalled when the COVID-19 pandemic struck the U.S. earlier this year, with Bolthouse and Mina scrapping the La Jolla project, at least temporarily, while rebranding the Long Beach restaurant with their new concept as The Bungalow Kitchen Belmont Shore, a Long Beach neighborhood along Pacific Coast Highway. That restaurant is now expected to debut early next year, ahead of Tiburon’s.

Bolthouse called it “the most innovative restaurant project I have ever been a part of.”

“The Bungalow Kitchen Tiburon had been in the works for quite some time, and we’ve long wanted to re-create the striking and luxurious feel of an elegant, exclusive clubhouse on an accessible community level,” he said.

“Both restaurants will highlight my version of California cuisine and emphasize the incredible bounty and purveyors of the regions in which they are in,” Mina said. “Our goal is to bring a warm and comforting place that will feel like an extension of the living room you always wanted.”

Executive Editor Kevin Hessel contributed to this report. Deirdre McCrohan has reported on Tiburon local government and community issues for more than 30 years. Reach her at 415-944-4634.

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