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## The secret garden restaurant moorpark ca

255 E High St, Moorpark Google In this Kitchen Nightmares episode, Gordon Ramsay visits The Secret Garden Restaurant in Moorpark, California is a French restaurant in Moorpark is a gateway to wine country, luxury golf courses and booming property prices. It is a great location for restaurants. Michel has a dwindling customer base. Sous Chef Devon reveals that Michel has a dwindling customer base. Sous Chef Devon reveals that Michel has a dwindling customer base. Sous Chef Devon reveals that Michel has a dwindling customer base. Sous Chef Devon reveals that Michel has a dwindling customer base. restaurant to greet him and he finds Michel and Jane in the kitchen. Gordon is unimpressed with the old fashioned decor, artificial flowers and the paper doily on the tables. Waitress Jane offers Gordon orders a garlic shrimp and strawberry salad that Gordon sends back to the kitchen as the shrimp are cold and undercooked. He also orders steak, which is tough, the carrots on the side are raw and the potatoes are greasy. Overall, the dishes were tasteless, bizarre, long-winded, boring and badly cooked. Michel doesn't take Gordon's criticisms well, especially those about the canned crab and Gordon leaves the restaurant disappointed. The next day, Gordon inspects the kitchen equipment. He finds the fridge is filled with moldy food and there are maggots, sending Gordon retching into the bathroom. Michel is once again defensive and responds that no kitchen is perfect. He claims to have pedigree in the kitchen, having worked with Thomas Keller. He says he wants Gordon's help but does not want him to criticize everything in the restaurant. Gordon arrives to observe a dinner service and Michel is serving a slice of strawberry to the customers as a canapé. The dishes are so complex and take so long to prepare that the customers are kept waiting for food. Gordon notices that all of Michel's dishes are crusted or stuffed but Michel goes out the front to speak to customers and Devon takes over. The kitchen speeds up the pace allowing food to leave quicker and waiting customers to be served their food. The next day Gordon decides he is going to shock Michel is angry when he arrives, worried that customers may have seen them and think he has closed. Gordon says that unless he changes, his restaurant will close and the place will be boarded up for real. Gordon introduces simpler recipes that can be prepared faster and are more cost effective. The new dishes include an onion gratin, tuna Nicoise, roast chicken and a fresh local asparagus tart. These dishes fly out of the kitchen and go down well with the new younger crowd in the restaurant. The kitchen soon falls apart as Michel won't let anyone else do anything. The kitchen isn't communicating and customers are left waiting for food as the orders back up further. Michel stops cooking and goes into the restaurant to talk to his friends and Devon starts to rescue the service by getting the food sent out. When Michel is asked to return to the kitchen, the service once again backs up. For relaunch, Gordon's team revamps and modernizes the decor is charming but is worried that the changes to the decor will hurt his business. Gordon introduces his new menu to the team and Michel once again is on the fence. He is used to his former menu and believes his customers would ask for it. For relaunch night, Gordon invites local celebrities, VIPs and a food critic is served a fish dish which she finds over seasoned and too salty. When Michel hears her criticism he asks the critic for another chance to impress her. Gordon is not impressed about him attempting to revert to his old menu and the two get into a fit of argument. Gordon furiously leaves the restaurant but comes back after clearing his mind. He clears out the dish from the old menu and the two get into a fit of argument. Gordon furiously leaves the restaurant but comes back after clearing his mind. He clears out the dish from the old menu and the two get into a fit of argument. Gordon furiously leaves the restaurant but comes back after clearing his mind. He clears out the dish from the old menu and the two get into a fit of argument. customers in the restaurant if they like the new food and they are full of compliments for the new menu. When Michel learns that the restaurant made a profit that evening, he begins to realize that he has been wrong and does need to change. What Happened Next at The Secret Garden Restaurant? At the end of the episode we hear that Jane was promoted to manager. Within months Michel Bardavid had reverted to his old menu as he says customers had complained. Yelp reviews are mixed with comments about a lack of diners and accusations of false reviews are mixed with comments about a lack of diners and accusations of false reviews are mixed with comments about a lack of diners and accusations of false reviews are mixed with comments about a lack of diners and accusations of false reviews are mixed with comments about a lack of diners and accusations of false reviews are mixed with comments about a lack of diners and accusations of false reviews are mixed with comments about a lack of diners and accusations of false reviews are mixed with comments about a lack of diners and accusations of false reviews are mixed with comments about a lack of diners and accusations of false reviews are mixed with comments about a lack of diners and accusations of false reviews are mixed with comments about a lack of diners and accusations of false reviews are mixed with comments about a lack of diners and accusations of false reviews are mixed with comments about a lack of diners and accusations of false reviews are mixed with comments about a lack of diners and accusations are mixed with a lack of diners and accusations are mixed with a lack of diners and accusation are mixed with a lack of diners and accusation are mixed with a lack of diners and accusation are mixed with a lack of diners and accusation are mixed with a lack of diners and accusation are mixed with a lack of diners and accusation are mixed with a lack of diners and accusation are mixed with a lack of diners and accusation are mixed with a lack of diners and accusation are mixed with a lack of diners and accusation are mixed with a lack of diners and accusation are mixed with a lack of diners and accusation are mixed with a lack of diners and accusation are mixed with a lack of diners and accusation are mixed with a lack of diners and accusation are mixed with a lack of diners and accusation are mixed wit he later found a new buyer. "Dear Friends, It is with a heavy heart that we inform you that Saturday, November 28th will be Chef Michel's last day at The Secret Garden. The business has been sold. We are so thankful for so many things. At this time of year, we celebrate you, our incredible customers that have come to feel more like family. Thank you for your many years of patronage and support Chef Michel is looking into other ventures. Keep an eye on your inbox or like us on facebook to stay up to date on what's happening next..." Michel has been working at Custom Pie in Moorpark since 2012. He later bought the restaurant and is currently owner of Custom Pie. The Secret Garden aired on December 12 2007, the episode was filmed in February 2007 and is Kitchen Nightmares season 1 episode - Campania Next episode - Campania Next episode - Campania Next episode of "Kitchen Nightmares Previous episode of "Kitchen Nightmares Previous episode". Nightmares" starring Gordon Ramsay, the former Secret Garden Restaurant space in Moorpark has been claimed by a new tenant. Danny Margolis, president of Moorpark based Command Performance Catering, plans to turn the remodeled building at 255 E. High St. into M on High Street, a full-service restaurant that will serve Californiacontemporary cuisine. And he hopes to have the work done in time for a summer 2020 debut. "I've always wanted to branch out and do a restaurant. What better location than historic High Street?" said Margolis, who grew up in the city and remembers dining at The Secret Garden before the "Kitchen Nightmares" crew came calling. "It's a nostalgic address that people would like to see in use again," he said. Helping plan the project is executive chef Maya Chrestensen, who joined Command Performance in 2003 after more than a decade in restaurants. MORE: Battling cancer, Ventura County winemaker toasts life with local 'Chambang'" want to offer food that is similar to what we're doing in our catering, without being too chef-y. It's a chance to say, 'Look what we can do when we're cooking for two people instead of 2,000,'" Chrestensen said with a laugh. Depending on the season, dishes could include crispy-skinned Arctic char with smoky tomato velouté sauce and juniper-brined Porterhouse pork chops with fig marmalade and a Brussels sprouts succotash. Then again, "we've changed the menus a hundred times in our heads," she added, laughing again. The address has been vacant since the property changed hands four years ago. The restaurant's interior was later gutted. Pathways and plantings for the once-secret garden at the back of the building were also removed. Architectural renderings for M on High Street depict several new outdoor areas, including one furnished with a fireplace and picnic-style seating and another with cabana-style sofas arranged under a trellis. Plans also call for converting a shipping container into a bar and ice-cream station. The patio area may have its own menu, Chrestensen said. The restaurant's interior will feature tables arranged near the arched windows, with additional seating at large, U-shaped booths and a bar at the back of the room. The main entrance will be moved to a door that opens onto the Magnolia Street side of the building. Margolis and company hope the new construction will clear away any bad juju still lingering from as far back as the late 1990s. That's when a jury convicted the then-wife of singer Frankie Valli of misdemeanor battery for slapping Secret Garden co-founder Sandra Sofsky during a dining-room dispute over the cost of a meal. A native of Lyon, France, chef Michel Bardavid unveiled his version of The Secret Garden in 2000. Nearly eight years later, it became the first Ventura County restaurant featured on the Fox reality series "Kitchen Nightmares." The episode made the most of centuries of bad blood between the French, represented by Bardavid, and the Brits, represented by Ramsay. Bardavid told The Star in 2009 that he regretted appearing on the show, which included scenes of the mock boarding-up of his restaurant with signs saying it had closed due to bankruptcy - something Ramsay said "might" happen if Bardavid didn't follow his advice. (The 2007 episode lives on in re-runs and on YouTube at After bringing back much of the restaurant's fine-dining French fare, Bardavid sold the business in 2015 as the result of a divorce. In late November, a peek through the windows revealed concrete floors, framework for new walls and "furnishings" ranging from a wheelbarrow to a portable backyard grill. Margolis was scheduled to submit plans this week to Moorpark's building and safety department and to Ventura County's environmental health division. The new restaurant will welcome rehearsal dinners, birthday parties and other special events with the exception of weddings. Command Performance already is an exclusive and/or preferred caterer at more than a dozen venues specializing in weddings in and around Ventura County. "We see this as an addition to the great restaurants we already have in Moorpark, and a way to give people even more reason to come to High Street," Margolis said. "The more businesses that can be successful there, the better it is for Moorpark." For more information, click on coming to the neighborhood - specifically, to 165 Poindexter Ave., Suite D - is a new tasting room and working-winery space for Cavaletti Vineyards, which previously made its wines at another, not-open-to-the-public location. Owner, grower and vintner Patrick Kelley also served as wine pourer during sneak-peek tasting sessions Dec. 21-22, when selections included a Los Angeles County-grown rosé and a Ventura County-sourced syrah. After some cosmetic remodeling of the site's bathroom over the holidays, Kelley plans to return in early January with the launch of regular weekend tastings. Join the winery's mailing list and/or check the Cavaletti Vineyards website and social-media feeds for updates (). Already open on High Street is Vegiterranean Kitchen, a vegan-meets-Mediterranean Fare spot that debuted last month at what was home to Le Bon Garçon before the gourmet salted-caramels shop moved to Los Angeles. Open only for take-out and catering orders, Vegiterranean Kitchen is owned and operated by the husband-and-wife team of Sevag Harmandarian and Nora Harmandarian. They're also parents to two daughters ages 10 months and 2 1/2 years. The take-out menu offers soups (gluten-free lentil, \$4 and \$6; Swiss chard, \$5.50 and \$7.25), salads (including gluten-free fattoush, \$9.50) and appetizers (spinach borag, four for \$6, and gluten-free stuffed eggplant with tahini (\$14). Lentil and chickpea wraps (\$9 each) can be turned into a \$12.50 combo with the addition of a drink and a side. Vegiterranean Kitchen is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays. Call ahead for changes due to the New Year Eve and New Year's Day holidays (481 E. High St., 805-523-2209, ). In OAK VIEW in the OJAI VALLEY, the Wendy's Restaurant at 11560 N. Ventura Ave. is closed after nearly 35 years of business. A patron reports being told that Dec. 21 was its final day to serve square-patty burgers. As of Dec. 24, the restaurant was still listed as open and accepting orders on Wendy's spokesperson via phone and email were not successful. A LoopNet listing for the property describes it as available in "Jan 2020." The location offers 2,375 square feet of retail space and a drive-thru entitlements." In OJAI proper, the family behind Sanders & Sons Gelato announced in a Dec. 23 Instagram post that they plan to open a retail location at 334 E. Ojai Ave., a multi-tenant structure located between Bonnie Lu's at 328 E. Ojai Ave. and Revel kombucha bar at 307 E. Matilija St., Suite C.The under-construction space will feature "patio seating with 12 hand-made flavors rotating daily," according to the post. A late-April opening is anticipated. Founded by Sanders Marvin, Sanders & Sons is also building a production facility on Bryant Circle about a mile away. The company's from-scratch flavors made with Ojai-grown ingredients are available for shipping via orders placed on its website (). In THOUSAND OAKS, do-it-yourself Japanese-style hot-pot dining is the focus at Tabu Shabu, in soft-opening mode since Dec. 6. The Orange County-based chain's name is a play on shabu-shabu, or "swish-swish," the action by which patrons cook seafood, vegetables and thin cuts of meat by swirling them in boiling-hot broth at table-top grills. Prices range from \$14 to \$65, depending on size and protein selection (the most spendy option is Wagyu Zabuton short rib). Beer, wine and sake are available. Operated by Yina Zarowitz, the Thousand Oaks location serves lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, followed by dinner from 5-9 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays and 5-10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays (2920 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Unit A, 805-371-8228, ). In VENTURA, the franchisee-owned BurgerIM restaurant at 440 E. Main St. has closed after less than two years of business. It is on the market for \$149,000, according to Dec. 23 posts to the business' Instagram and Facebook pages and old-school flyers available from a box near the front door. Both forms of communication describe a "motivated seller due to family relocation," with the name and phone number of an Encino-based broker as the contact. Two other, separately owned BurgerIMs in Ventura County opened and closed this year alone. They were in Thousand Oaks (1610 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Suite C), gone after a mere four months, and Oxnard (191 E. Gonzales Road), which lasted five months. Shuttered locations named in this column are still listed as "open" on the BurgerIM corporate website (). Attempts to contact a spokesperson for the chain were not successful. According to a Dec. 19 story published by the trade publication Restaurant Business, BurgerIM recently informed franchisees that it plans to restructure itself - a move that could involve filing for bankruptcy. Meanwhile, the family-owned Evita's Mexican Cafe is scheduled to close on Dec. 31- the self-declared retirement date of owner Aurelio Jauregui after 31 years of serving chile relleno burritos and posole verde de pollo. The restaurant was known as Taco de Mexico when Jauregui bought it and named it after his daughter with wife Martha Hernandez. Evita died of leukemia five years later, at age 7. Hernandez retired in 2017 from the Fillmore Unified School District, where she served as assistant superintendent for educational services. She has encouraged Jauregui to follow suit, although he pledges to stay on past New Year's Eve to help with the transition if an in-the-works sale to a new owner comes to pass." I'd like to thank everyone for all the support through the years," Jauregui said. "I've loved being here and talking with customers. That's the part I'm going to miss the most." Evita's is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays (3868 E. Main St., 805-656-4571). Lisa McKinnon is a staff writer for The Star. To contact her, send email to lisa.mckinnon@vcstar.com.

