

The Shade Hotel in Redondo Beach nearing its opening date

Megan Barnes Updated Sep 19, 2016 (5)



An artist's rendering shows the exterior of the Shade hotel in Redondo Beach.



Five years and \$22 million in the making, the three-story, luxury boutique hotel at 655 N. Harbor Drive is taking reservations and putting the finishing touches on 54 marina-view rooms ahead of a preopening bash and LA Rams game watch party Oct. 2.

Rams legends and cheerleaders will attend the 1 p.m. celebration, ribbon cutting and silent auction, where 100 guests will preview menu offerings and watch the team play the Arizona Cardinals on big screens throughout the King Harbor hotel.

All proceeds from limited \$100 general admission and \$250 VIP tickets will benefit the Los Angeles Rams Foundation.

Phased opening

The Rams party is the first event in a phased opening announced this week by hotelier and restaurateur Michael Zislis, who built his first Shade Hotel to high acclaim in Manhattan Beach more than a decade ago.

SeaLevel, the Shade Redondo's high-end restaurant, will open Oct. 7 and offer farm-to-table "California coastal cuisine" by Executive Chef Aaron Robbins.

The restaurant will take up the first and third floors of a separate 9,000-square-foot building across from the main hotel. The culinary building will feature a kosher kitchen and a 250-person event space filled with natural light from tall windows that open to a patio with living succulent walls.

A grand opening charity event is planned for Nov. 18, the same date Zislis opened his first Shade hotel in 2005 (it's also his wedding anniversary and the date he met his wife).

AquaDeck, a rooftop pool with guest cabanas on the main hotel building, will begin programming weekly pool parties open to the public next year.

The eco-friendly hotel overlooking the waterfront and pier area, which is the focus of a proposed \$400 million redevelopment, also includes two conference rooms with private balconies and an open-air lobby.

Overcoming setbacks

Zislis said the March flood that ruined 28 nearly-ready rooms delayed his opening by three months, resulting in lost summer revenue and \$1 million worth of damage.

Although a burst pipe initially was suspected, Zislis later learned the flood was caused by a hose in the rooftop pool that was unknowingly left running for days after contractors tested the water on each floor. It was only discovered by a passer-by who noticed water cascading from a third-story balcony.

"I am super duper stoked to open and just so thankful for everybody working with me," Zislis said. "This was not an easy project, everything was a 10 in difficulty and everybody's been a team player."

The Rams event came together, Zislis said, because he became acquainted with team executives when they stayed in his Manhattan Beach hotel while they were secretly in Los Angeles to arrange the move.

Zislis expressed interest earlier this year in building another Shade hotel in Manhattan Beach when the city was considering calling for bids to build a hotel on Parkview Avenue, but leaders later abandoned that idea.

So far, Zislis said visitors who have had a sneak peak of the Shade Redondo have been stunned by its ocean and coastal views.

"Everybody's jaw drops," he said. "I am so happy to finally be opening and show off these rooms."