

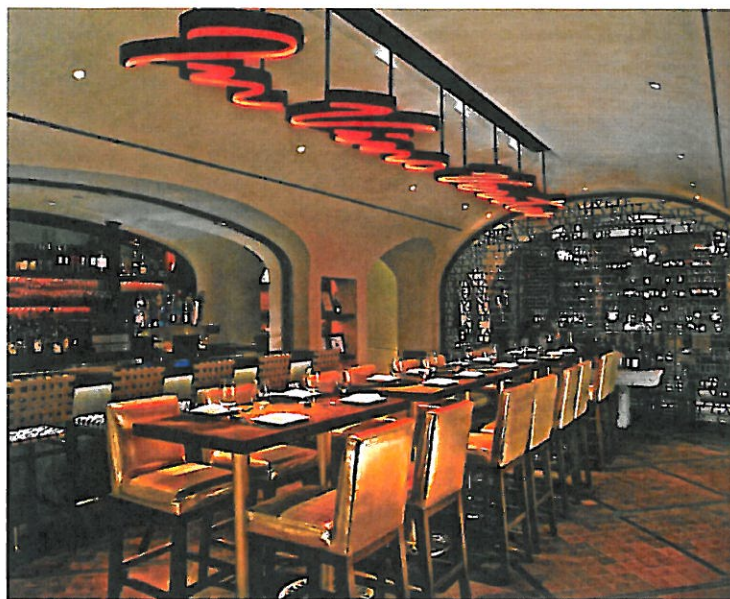
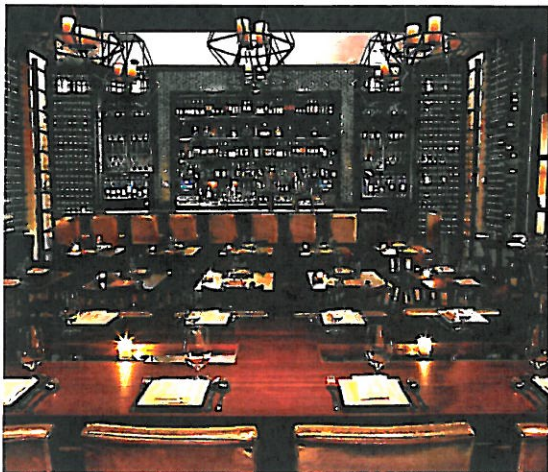
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Designer Dining

La Cave at Wynn debuts with three distinct F&B experiences

By STEFANI C. O'CONNOR

Ultra-luxury in Las Vegas? What else is new? In a town where over-the-top design has become the norm, the savvy designers at 555 International have done the opposite, carving out La Cave, an elegant

wine lounge with an underground feel at the Wynn Las Vegas hotel.

President/founder of 555 International James Geier and vp of design Karen Herold wanted to create a haven within Vegas that was intimate. "We did this by bringing down the ceiling in the entrance and creating a cave-like feeling," said Herold of the space, which includes a 120-seat wine bar, that has been separated into three distinct environments: The Cave, Main Dining Room and Garden Room.

The Chicago-based design and fabrication firm approached the project looking to merge what Wynn guests would expect in terms of luxury but in "a hip, almost understated-luxury way, as we still wanted to attract a younger visitor as well," said Herold.

Located off the casino floor adjacent to the Wynn pool, La Cave's appropriately "cave-like" glass revolving-door entryway opens to oak cobblewood flooring that features a ribbon inlay. Low vaulted plaster ceilings are "heightened" by a large sign in red LED lights that hangs over the center tables and reads "In Vino Veritas."

Latin phrases abound, engraved in the room's wood and metal, celebrating food, wine and the arts. A back bar inside The Cave is made up of reflective tiles with LED lights and an arched steel gate connotes the feel of a wine cellar in Tuscany.

The Main Dining Room features a dark red wall with burlap and a large rectangular mirror. Custom-made lanterns with ivory candles hang from the ceilings. To the right and left of the center bar are two wine rooms. The dining room has cement tile floors and walnut tables

and chairs, and includes a decanting station with space for wine tastings and special events.

The Garden Room inside La Cave features a mix and match of chairs and tables set against walls covered with burlap and a main wall lined with plants. Area rugs play against the concrete floor and light is provided from lanterns set into the carved teak ceiling.

Herold said all the spaces relate to each other in aesthetics of color and materials. "But they all have a different level of energy. The Cave is the hole in the wall that you'd find in Europe; the Main Dining Room is high energy like a bustling tapas bar and the Garden Room is more serene—we wanted to bring the outside inside."

The project took 18 months from start to finish. "Steve Wynn had a big hand in the design as well, as did his whole team from the interior designers to the architects," said Herold. "When you work with them you are working with the most professional and highest-quality individuals." Paradigm Purchasing served as the purchasing agent.

"The entire space was custom. From the marquetry panels to the carved goat heads, everything was the real deal, no corners were cut," said Herold. She noted one of the signature features of the space are the wood marquetry inlay panels engraved with the La Cave logo.

"La Cave is a space within this bustling property where they can escape for a bit and not feel like they are in Vegas, but still have that high level of luxury...People like that it is secluded and that you feel that you are in New York or Europe, not cookie-cutter Vegas," she said.

