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Business Spotlight

Explore the taste of South America

*Oyo Restaurant & Jive Bar now
featuring new lunch menu*

Maurice Dissels' first childhood memory of his grandmother, in the hope of making him a good Cajun cook, is feeding him a taste of her spicy chili sauce. He remembers crying in his high-chair. But he is smiling today as he works on the latest stage of his culinary development as the Executive Chef at Oyo.

A South American-born native of British Guyana, Dissels formally studied culinary arts with a strong background in Cajun/Caribbean cuisine and food science. He later moved to the United States, where he honed his crafts and skills at the culinary institute Grey Stone in Chicago. He also spent time in St. Helena of the Napa Valley and in restaurants from Colorado to the Bay Area.

Locally, Dissels shared his passion for cooking in restaurants such as Pasta Cuisine in Orinda, the Historical Pleasanton Hotel, where he served as executive chef for eight years, 840 North First, and Birk's where he was the executive chef for over 16 years. Working in such culturally and linguistically diverse kitchens gave Dissels not only the



Maurice Dissels is the founder and executive chef of Oyo Restaurant & Jive Bar.



love for the restaurant business, that still burns brightly inside him today, but also a deep appreciation for the different types of people that you might meet in any restaurant.

As the only restaurant in the East Bay to offer South American/Caribbean ambience/cuisine, Oyo is thrilled to introduce its new lunch menu. Look for items such as a jerk chicken lunch plate with coconut rice and sweet plantains, an individual serving of paella and their award-winning pumpkin soup.

Coming to Oyo this Spring is a traditional weekend brunch with a twist, with a rum-based cocktail program featuring honey moejitos, passion fruit caipirinhas and pina colodas. Also coming soon are a happy hour as well as a steel drum band on Thursdays and Saturdays. Family owned and operated, Oyo is located at 680 Main Street in downtown Pleasanton and is open Tuesday through Friday 11:15 to 2:30 and 5:15 to 9:30, and Saturday and Sunday 11:15 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Learn more at www.oyopleasanton.com.