

# LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

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## Hubert Keller inks deal with Mandalay Bay

Hubert Keller, chef/owner of Fleur de Lys restaurant in San Francisco, is ecstatic about opening a Fleur de Lys at Mandalay Bay. Already under construction and expected to open in October, Fleur de Lys is located nearby Aureole in the restaurant corridor.

This is the first venture outside of San Francisco for Keller and his wife and partner, Chantal. The Kellers are frequent visitors to Las Vegas and have many friends in the city. When I spoke to Chef Hubert after the signing I asked why he had decided to open a restaurant in Las Vegas.

"I love Las Vegas and I think there's huge potential there. I feel at home there. In spite of the slumping economy Las Vegas is still booming. It's always changing and exciting. It's a city that's vibrant and alive."

"I no longer do a New Year's event at my San Francisco restaurant. My wife and I have spent the last three New Years in Las Vegas with some of our friends, including Picasso at Bellagio Executive Chef Julian Serrano and his wife Susan and Chef Jean Joho owner of the Eiffel Tower restaurant at Paris."

The Kellers have owned Fleur de Lys for more than 30 years. At year's end 2001 a fire destroyed the restaurant. After much soul searching the decision was made to rebuild Fleur de Lys. There were concerns that their customer base would be lost, it took 11 months to rebuild the restaurant.

Aug. 12, 2002, without any fanfare, Fleur de Lys reopened. It took just a short time for word to get out (no advertising had been done) and business continued as if it had never ceased.

The contemporary French menu at Fleur de Lys includes some Mediterranean influences. The carte at Mandalay Bay will be similar, with only minor differences. Featured are three-, four- and five-course menus priced from \$65. A five-course vegetarian feast (carnivores like it, too) is \$65. Currently among the first-course choices are roasted Maine lobster, a tasting of foie gras, oven-roasted quail on a gratin of choucroute and more. Fish, crustaceans, mollusks, meat, poultry and game selections are included among the entrees.

Fleur de Lys offers an International selection of wines. Wine pairings are available with any meal. And if you plan to be in San Francisco before October, the Fleur de Lys reservation number is (415) 673-7779.