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El Torito Grill in Irvine will become a giant Sol Mexican Cocina by fall



El Torito Grill in Irvine will be transformed into Sol Mexican Cocina, undergoing a multimillion-dollar renovation before opening in fall at Centerview, a LEED Platinum property with twin 12-story office buildings. (Artist rendering courtesy of Xperience Restaurant Group)

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Xperience Restaurant Group — the owner and operator of El Torito, Chevys Fresh Mex, Sol Mexican Cocina, Acapulco and Las Brisas — will announce on Tuesday that El Torito Grill in Irvine will be transformed into Sol Mexican Cocina, undergoing a multimillion-dollar renovation.

The new restaurant at 1910 Main St. will occupy 11,277 square feet, including a 2,861 square foot patio and is slated to open in fall at Centerview, a LEED Platinum property with twin 12-story office buildings.

“We’re thrilled to welcome Sol to Centerview,” said Justin Nguyen, vice president of asset management at Emmes Realty Services of California LLC in an announcement. “SOL adds to the robust amenities at Centerview and is complementary to Porch & Swing and Eighteen Main — a recently developed restaurant pad consisting of 17,000 square feet and providing the opportunity for two-to-four additional restaurants at the property.”

[Sol](#), which was founded in Orange County in 2009, has locations in Newport Beach, Playa Vista, Scottsdale, Ariz. and Denver.

The new Sol's menu and pricing will be similar to its Newport location with signature dishes such as Taco Vampiro (\$10) on a double tortilla with cheese, serrano chilies, carne asada, guacamole, pico de gallo, chipotle sauce and cotija cheese, and Wild Fish on Esquites (\$43) with almond-lemon crust, grilled corn esquites, tomato, basil, lime, avocado butter and cotija cheese.

Sol is well known for its tequila cocktails including its house margarita (\$13) with fresh citrus juices, agave nectar and tequila, and agave spirit-based drinks like The Mezcalero, a concoction of mezcal shaken with passion fruit, guava and lime juice served in a chili salt rimmed glass.

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Management can't wait to welcome new and returning customers to the restaurant.

"This new Sol location at Centerview will absolutely fill a need in the Irvine restaurant landscape for a modern, polished Mexican restaurant," said Randy Sharpe, CEO of Xperience Restaurant Group. "The menu, fresh ingredients and approachable yet sophisticated ambiance will make this restaurant a fantastic destination for date night, happy hour with coworkers, Sunday brunchers, or a special occasion."