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A longtime Sunset Boulevard iconic restaurant reinterpreted – RivaBella opens to the public next week

West Hollywood, CA – January 9, 2013 – **RivaBella**, the newest restaurant from Innovative Dining Group (IDG) in partnership with Gino Angelini (Osteria Angelini), is set to debut next week at 9201 Sunset Boulevard. Locals will remember the famed Hamburger Hamlet which operated for sixty years on the Sunset Strip spot, adjacent to the Beverly Hills border. Ralph Gentile • Architects teamed with Studio Collective to create a destination Italian restaurant with the appeal of a rustic Tuscan farmhouse and the luxuriousness of the Italian Riviera, incorporating modern details that comprise the IDG signature look.

Patrons will immediately note the completely transformed exterior. Travertine stone trims the windows, and an Italian plaster stucco finish graces the façade. Framed in antique metal trim, the large wood door leads guests across stone floors past the host station and into the bar and lounge areas. A central bar features a green marble bartop and an antique mirror-finished back bar showcasing bottles and glasses. A cozy lounge area with comfortable seating and adjustable wall sconces resides below an oversized metal skylight. Large scale stone tiles continue the rustic flooring throughout the bar and dining room.

Hanging below a ceiling of rough stained wood slats, oversized wood and metal chandeliers warm the interior spaces. A vertical wine cellar showcases the restaurant's extensive collection just beyond the bar. In the dining area wood tabletops with antique Italian metal legs perch near two long banquettes. Nearby, patinaed eight-foot tall folding doors lead to 2800 square feet of exterior patio dining, the showcase of RivaBella.

This garden-like patio awaits guests wishing to dine al fresco. The exaggerated trellis evokes an Italian pergola, with built-in planters and climbing vines. Steakhouse booths flank the perimeter of the patio, of which the center is dominated by a brick-clad double-sided fireplace. Lounge seating is sprinkled throughout the space, including intimate two-top tables as well as seating for larger parties. Concealed weather protection and heaters make the

patio a perfect Italian experience to enjoy nearly year round. Cobblestone flooring of dark and light grey square stones and two large trees complete the garden-like feeling.

Nearby is the welcoming private dining room encompassing 750 square feet, offering an elegant space to host parties and events. An elaborate metal gate greets guests, and brick pilasters lead the eye upward to a thirty-five foot long vaulted brickwork ceiling, illuminated by several decorative sconces and large metal chandeliers. Seating takes place at three elongated tables that comfortably accommodate up to twenty-four people.

The menu focuses on what Chef Angelini does best: authentic Italian osteria tradition with a California twist. Dishes like Sicilian-style grilled branzino, saffron tagliatelle with prosciutto ragù, and braised wild boar with crispy polenta along with a complete wine and liquor selection.

This is the second Italian concept for Innovative Dining Group—**Soleto** (801 S. Figueroa) opened in the former Zucca space downtown earlier this year. Locations on Sunset Boulevard have been traditionally winners for IDG, who own Sushi Roku, BOA, Delphine and Katana.

Architectural Team: Ralph Gentile, Sergio Osorio, Catia Sander.

Ralph Gentile Architects is a small, dynamic architectural and interior design firm in Los Angeles, specializing in restaurant, night club, hotel, spa, and retail store design. Since 1989, the studio has established a national reputation for highly creative and provocative design solutions for some of the finest clients in the hospitality, gaming, and restaurant industries.

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