

Pearl's Rhumba to close

Owner plans new concept for site

By [Alicia Wallace \(Contact\)](#)
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After nearly eight years of serving mojitos and Caribbean food, Rhumba will have its last dance on Tuesday.

Owner Dave Query is closing the restaurant at 950 Pearl St. for about a month and plans to reopen it under a different concept.

"In all of the restaurants that I own, this one is the least of a restaurant. It's never been a desire as a company to own a bar," said Query, who also operates Jax Fish House, the West End and Zolo Grill in Boulder and Lola and another Jax Fish House in Denver.

When the reincarnation of Rhumba opens next month, the staff and customer favorites such as the mojitos will remain, but the menu and restaurant will receive a complete overhaul. There's no name yet for the new concept, but Query said the food will be "equatorial" and less expensive.

Query's other restaurants, including the neighboring Jax and West End, have had "banner years," and Rhumba's location has not been an issue in terms of packing the place during the summertime, he said. But the colder months are not as kind to the business.

"It's not really getting the bodies through the door," Query said. "We're just trying to do what we do well at our other restaurants, from a food standpoint."

The revamp also comes as Boulder's restaurant landscape becomes more competitive, with arrivals of the nearby Tahona Tequila Bistro and Prima Ristorante and the eateries such as Laudio's at Twenty Ninth Street.

"(The new restaurants and) Twenty Ninth Street come to town and you've got to look at what you're doing," Query said.

By the end of March, the Zolo Grill will close for about three weeks to get a remodel of its own. After 14 years, the high-trafficked restaurant was getting worn down, he said.

Zolo's remodel comes as the surrounding Village Shopping Center gets a facelift. Along with updating the exterior of shops, owner Gart Properties' plans include filling the United Artists-vacated theaters

space with a Sunflower Farmers Market grocery store; adding a hotel, restaurant and retail shops; and relocating and expanding Full Moon Grill.

By the end of the summer, Full Moon is expected to move to the former space of Canterbury Oak & Brass and will be slightly bigger than it is now, said Charles Stanford, assistant manager.

"We'll have a little more elbow room," he said.

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