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## **Fragrant, Sensuous Food in the Heart of Portland's Arts & Theater District Chef/Owner David Machado to open Nel Centro in May 2009**

**Portland, Oregon—March 3, 2009** While most restaurateurs keep one eye firmly fixed on financial news and the other on their reservation book, Portland-based chef and restaurateur David Machado is looking to the future. His third and newest venture, Nel Centro, is slated to open downtown in early May of this year. "Proceed with caution, always," says Machado of the current climate. "But retreat, even in these challenging times, isn't on the menu."

Named for the Italian *civic center* or *community meeting place*, Nel Centro's menu showcases Machado's modern interpretation of classic dishes from the Italian-French Riviera, highlighting the cuisine of Genoa and Nice using fresh, seasonal ingredients from local growers and producers. Signature breads and pastries created daily by local Pastry Chef, Lee Posey, will be served. Nel Centro's wine program, directed by David Holstrom, will focus on wines from southern France and northern Italy, as well as varietals from Oregon and Washington.

"Nice and Genoa are dynamic, historic, port cities with a rich mix of flavors and cultures," says Machado. This sense of coming together at the heart of the city to share a meal, to celebrate art and life, this is what Nel Centro is about."

Designed by Portland-based Holst Architecture, the modern, European influenced design features a West Coast style open kitchen with views of a large deck oven and rotisserie. Built with a commitment to sustainable practices, recycled and sustainable materials are used throughout the restaurant. The 115 seat restaurant also seats 30 in the bar. Two private dining rooms accommodate up to 30 people and al fresco dining for 50 is available on the patio in season.

Machado created several of Portland's most popular downtown restaurants, including Pazzo Ristorante and Southpark Seafood Grill & Wine Bar. He went on to launch Portland's "eastside dining craze" as chef/owner of Lauro Kitchen and Vindalho ([www.laurokitchen.com](http://www.laurokitchen.com), [www.vindalho.com](http://www.vindalho.com)). Nel Centro brings Machado full circle – back to the city's cultural center.

Located at the corner of Columbia Street and Sixth Avenue, Nel Centro is adjacent to the newly renovated Hotel Modera. 1408 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97201, 503.484.1099, [www.nelcentro.com](http://www.nelcentro.com), <http://nelcentro.typepad.com>.

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