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DINING

Restaurant openings: Famous New York steakhouse debuts in Palm Beach County



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An iconic New York City steakhouse that grew out of a speakeasy in 1927 will make its Palm Beach County debut this month.

Gallaghers Steakhouse will open a Boca Raton restaurant location on Wednesday, July 19. For now, it will be open for dinner only. Lunch service is expected to begin as early as September.

While Gallaghers may be new to Boca, its owner Dean Poll is no stranger to the city. Boca Raton, he said in a news release, is “a community my family and I have enjoyed for many years.”

“I know some of our Boca Raton guests will have visited our New York location already, but I’m just as excited to welcome first-timers who will realize that Gallaghers is so much more than just a steakhouse,” said Poll, who bought the steakhouse from its second owners in 2013. “Gallaghers is truly an experience.”

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The new steakhouse moved into the space where the Canadian-founded chain Madisons New York Grill and Bar operated, just north of Glades Road and west of Military Trail. The space includes a 200-plus-seat dining room, a large horseshoe-shaped bar and patio seating for another 100 diners.

Walls reflect steakhouse’s history, celebrity

The restaurant’s decor pays homage to Gallaghers’ 1920s founding, but with a retro-Florida twist, with green leather booth banquette seating beneath pecky cypress ceilings.

The walls at the new steakhouse are lined with framed vintage photos that chronicle Gallaghers’ history, the stars, athletes and politicians it has hosted and echoes of its early years. The subtext: the steakhouse, too, is a celebrity.

Founded by former Ziegfeld Follies dancer Helen Gallagher on Manhattan’s 52nd Street, the steakhouse was a Theater District magnet for a variety of big names, famous and infamous.

In a 2017 profile of Poll, The New York Times described Gallaghers this way: “It had been a hangout for gangsters and Broadway stars and many who were indebted to the former and in love with the latter. Later, it turned up in the gossip columns because guests like Gloria Vanderbilt, Muhammad Ali, Elizabeth Taylor and Michael Jackson were worth a mention.”

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Gallagher's steaks, seafood, classic sides

Like the original steakhouse in Manhattan's Theater District, where a steak-filled meat locker is proudly displayed in the storefront window, the Boca Raton Gallaghers also will showcase its steak locker. It stands inside the restaurant, which dry-ages meats for 21 days and longer, and cuts them into portions onsite. The steaks are grilled over hickory coals.

With a few small tweaks, the Boca Raton menu mirrors that of Gallaghers in New York. That goes for its prices as well. Boca's raw bar menu is a bit more global, adding red snapper and tuna crudos, hamachi carpaccio (\$20 each dish) and spicy tuna poke (\$19) to the list.

But when it comes to steaks and chops, the Boca and New York menus are basically the same. A showstopper porterhouse is served sliced and presented with the bone (\$69 per person). New York sirloin is offered whole (\$64) or bone-in and sliced (\$59). Add to that two sizes of filet mignon (\$58, \$65), rib steak (\$74), lamb chops and rib veal chops (\$68) and the "limited availability" prime rib roast (\$75).

A variety of grilled or broiled fish, jumbo Maine lobster and jumbo shrimp are also on the menu. As for house specialties, they are the same in Boca Raton as they are in New York: grilled half-chicken (\$29), veal chop Parmigiana (\$64) and stuffed jumbo shrimp (\$53).

As for sides, expect steakhouse classics that include a variety of potato dishes, creamed spinach, sautéed vegetables and other favorites (\$12 to \$17).

The kitchen is in the hands of Gallaghers longtime executive chef Alan Ashkinaze, who moved to Boca Raton to lead the location's culinary team.

Gallaghers Steakhouse in Boca Raton

Located at 2006 NW Executive Center Circle, just north of Glades Road and west of Military Trail, Boca Raton, 561-559-5800.

Debuts Wednesday, July 19, in Boca Raton.

Hours: Open 5:30 to 10 p.m. daily for dinner. Lunch service is expected as soon as September.

Reservations can be made via [OpenTable.com](https://www.opentable.com).