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TERRI STARK

Stark Reality Restaurants, Sonoma County California Proprietor and Co-Owner

Terri Stark loves a good time. Growing up in San Mateo California, she was known for throwing multi-course dinner parties for her friends, complete with menus and stemware, while in high school. Little did she imagine that not too many years in the future she'd be the co-owner and operator with her husband Mark of six thriving restaurants. The rest of the country has taken notice. Terri and Mark were semifinalists for the 2013 James Beard Award for Outstanding Restaurateur, the food world's equivalent of an Academy Award.



Terri majored in hospitality at the University of Oregon, earning a bachelor's degree in Leisure Services, a fact that she finds funny every time she mentions it. She and Mark met in 1995 while both were working for the California Cafe Restaurant Group in Palo Alto: he as a regional chef and she as manager of the catering department. Terri had found in Mark someone just as passionate about hospitality as she was. They married in 1999 and relocated to Santa Rosa in 2001 where Terri's family roots stretch back four generations. They introduced the small plates concept to Santa Rosa with the opening of their first restaurant, Willi's Wine Bar, in 2002.

After losing Willi's Wine Bar to the 2017 Tubbs Fire, Terri and Mark are looking forward to a spring 2019 re-opening at the restaurant's new home in the Town & Country Center in Santa Rosa. Never ones to rest on their laurels, the Starks will open Grossman's New York Style Deli & Restaurant in Santa Rosa's historic Railroad Square in fall 2019.

The Starks are hands-on owners and operators of their restaurants. Terri handles all front-of-the house operations and even has an opportunity to showcase her creative flair by developing the interior design concepts for each of the restaurants.

Says Terri, "Everyone thinks opening restaurants is going to be really, really fun, but it's 90 percent business." Through hard work, business acumen, and a great partnership with Mark, Terri has realized her dreams and is able to indulge her passion for entertaining almost every day. Despite her hectic schedule and heavy workload, she can frequently be found greeting guests in one of the Stark restaurants.

For more information about Stark Reality Restaurants, visit www.starkrestaurants.com.

Restaurants

Willi's Wine Bar

Town & Country Center, Santa Rosa

Celebrated roadhouse featuring international small plates and wine flights.

Opened 2002. Lost in Tubbs Fire 2017. Will re-open in new location in spring 2019.

Willi's Seafood & Raw Bar

Downtown Healdsburg. Opened 2003

East Coast meets South America for Small Plates and Cocktails

Monti's

Montgomery Village Center, Santa Rosa. Opened 2004

The locals' favorite, with wood-fired rotisserie specials nightly

Stark's Steak & Seafood

Historic Railroad Square, Santa Rosa. Opened 2008

Classic steakhouse and lounge with legendary Happy Hour

Bravas

Healdsburg. Opened 2012

Spanish-inspired tapas, large plates, and paella

Bird & The Bottle

Midtown Santa Rosa. Opened 2015

Modern tavern with large and small plates to share, many from the open kitchen's wood-fired grill.

Grossman's Delicatessen & Bar

Historic Railroad Square. Opening fall 2019

New York style deli, bakery and bar