



WILLI'S WINE BAR

Backgrounder

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Shortly after opening Willi's Wine Bar in 2002, it became one of the most popular dining hotspots in Sonoma County. Originally located on Old Redwood Highway between Santa Rosa and Windsor it was referred to as being "in the middle of nowhere and everywhere". Willi's welcomed guests from all over for 15 years until the Tubbs fire in 2017 destroyed the restaurant.

Although the old building is gone, Willi's Wine Bar lives on. In 2019 Mark and Terri Stark re-opened Willi's in the Town & Country center close to their home. The pair unveiled the newest iteration of their original eatery with the same focus on small plates for sharing, a thoughtfully curated local wine list, and the addition of a full bar. Willi's quickly became a neighborhood favorite again.

Chef Mark and Terri were among the first restaurateurs in the region to introduce the small-plate concept. "The idea of focusing on small plates stemmed from Terri's preference to sit at the bar and only order the appetizers," says Mark. Pairing small plates with an extensive array of wines by the glass has proven to be an enduring favorite of Willi's Wine Bar customers.

The menu at Willi's Wine Bar continues to feature international small plates, some surprisingly creative and others comfortingly familiar. As is customary at every Stark Reality restaurant, the knowledgeable staff offers pairing suggestions from the extensive wine list and, in this new location invites guests to linger in either the handsome, comfortable dining room with its view of the open kitchen or on the inviting outdoor patio.

Longtime guests will be heartened to find many of their favorite dishes remain on the menu, including Tunisian Roasted Carrots, Moroccan-Style Barbecued Lamb Chops, and Ahi Tuna Tartare. Beyond these long-beloved menu items, returning guests will recognize numerous friendly faces among the staff. Willi's Wine Bar is once again, a fixture of the Sonoma County dining scene.

Today, the Starks' vision has expanded to eight celebrated restaurants across Sonoma County, each contributing to a rich dining landscape with unique yet consistently high-quality offerings.