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Dining Out

Americano's French Chef Has a Mexican Pantry



By FLORENCE FABRICANT

At the Americano, the sleek dining room set to open in the new Hôtel Americano on Thursday, Olivier Reginensi, the executive chef, will be turning out French food that has an unmistakable Latin accent. (The hotel is owned by a Mexican group.) Mr. Reginensi, who is from France and worked at Daniel and other American restaurants since 1993, said his menu would use some Latin and Mexican ingredients in what are essential French recipes.

“I’m putting quinoa and avocado with lobster and a salsa verde made with crème fraîche,” he said. “I plan to use Mexican black beans with octopus and calamari, but my desserts will be French.”

How about chimichurri with the steak frites?

A daytime takeout café up front becomes the bar at night, and leads into the dining room past the open kitchen. Good weather allows for outdoor seating.

The Americano, Hôtel Americano, 518 West 27th Street, Chelsea, (212) 525-0000.