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### **Bistro Niko Brings Paris to Buckhead**

Bistro Niko, the highly anticipated French restaurant from Buckhead Life Restaurant Group (BLRG), opened its doors to the public November 5, 2009. I. Pano Karatassos, Founder and CEO of BLRG is excited to bring a new concept to Atlanta after opening two restaurants out of state in the last eight years.

“There seemed to be no time like the present. Bistros are back on the rise nationally and it seemed to be a natural fit for our group, since we’ve always had such an appreciation for French food and technique. At the heart of it all, Bistro Niko is French comfort food, done well,” said Pano Karatassos.

More than a year of research in France, Chicago, New York and Washington D.C. and years of classical French training and experience between I. Pano Karatassos, Corporate Executive Chef Pano I. Karatassos and Executive Chef of Bistro Niko Gary Donlick went into the concept of Bistro Niko.

Bistro Niko gets its name from Karatassos’ youngest son Niko Karatassos, Director of Operations for BLRG. Bistro Niko aims to be a true neighborhood restaurant where guests are welcomed warmly and satisfying foods that change with the seasons and define regional, comfort French cuisine are served. This casual bistro is the perfect spot to enjoy the company of friends and family and relish one of the richest culinary heritages in the world, striking the balance between sophistication and comfort.

The food at Bistro Niko is true to the flavors of a modern Parisian bistro, offering a contemporary take on classic French cuisine at an affordable price. The menu offers Boeuf Bourguignon with Kobe Beer Cheeks instead of traditional braised beef and Hachis Parmentier de Veau, a new take on Shepherd’s Pie featuring Veal Osso Bucco as it’s base instead of lamb.

The décor of Bistro Niko captures a classic and vintage bistro ambiance. Using Karatassos’ broad vision, Bill Johnson of The Johnson Studio, designed an extraordinary restaurant space. The entry features a hallway of gleaming white tiles that showcase an open kitchen with that days oysters, caviar and hanging meats on display like a French charcuterie.

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The main dining room glows from the light installation featuring more than 130 bulbs on the ceiling and vintage scones next to Venetian glass mirrors on the wall. The back wall offers a hand painted mural of famous landmarks in Paris with a special appearance of Karatassos himself.

The zinc bar is a centerpiece of the restaurant, as is the wine, beer and spirits menu. With over 60 international bottled beers, several more on tap, a wine list featuring 70 bottles under \$100 and 30 offered by the glass and a delicious and a unique aperitif menu that takes full advantage of fresh juices and the 20 cordials and liquor s on hand, guests are sure to find something to whet their whistle. Positioned of the bar under the grand red awning is patio seating overlooking bustling Peachtree Road, offering the true sidewalk café experience

The Salon, Bistro Niko's quieter dining room with space for up to 80 guests, includes original renditions of vintage French posters and 88 hand painted tiles with iris flowers mimicking the glass work around the room.

Bistro Niko serves lunch Monday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and dinner Sunday through Thursday from 5:30 to 10 p.m. and until 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Sunday brunch from 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with the bar service available all day, every day. Reservations are suggested, but not required at 404-261-6456 or online. Bistro Niko is located in Atlanta's Buckhead shopping and financial district at 3344 Peachtree Road in the spectacular Sovereign Building. Other restaurants in the area in clued Buckhead Diner, Buckhead Bread Company & Corner Café, Chops Lobster Bar, Kyma, Pricci, Veni Vidi Vici, Atlanta Fish Market, Nava, Bluepointe and 103 West, a private dining facility. For more information on any Buckhead Life restaurant please visit [www.buckheadrestaurants.com](http://www.buckheadrestaurants.com).

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