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Wednesday, May 30, 2018

Todd English 'Integrity Move' Abandons Plans for II Bastardo Space

Added by Scott Stiffler on November 16, 2017. Saved under News

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Todd English likes Chelsea, but won't be setting up shop on Seventh Ave. as long as the shuttered Il Bastardo space is associated with its "previous operators." File photo via cheftoddenglish.com.

BY WINNIE McCROY | Just months after Chelsea Now reported on celebrity Chef Todd English's intent to open up one of his famed food hall market concepts at 191 Seventh Ave. (near the corner of W. 21st St.), the bon vivant has quietly backed out of negotiations. The huge spot was the former site of Il Bastardo restaurant, a hotbed of police and State Liquor Authority citations for a history of drunk and disorderly conduct violations that stemmed from their raucous weekend brunches.

Chef English's Director of Restaurant Development, Flip Arbelaez, confided to Chelsea Now that they had planned to create their version of a neighborhood food hall with six food stalls and a florist, and felt the layout of the old Il Bastardo space was perfect. English and his team were initially very excited to find the space, which Arbelaez said was perfectly situated between

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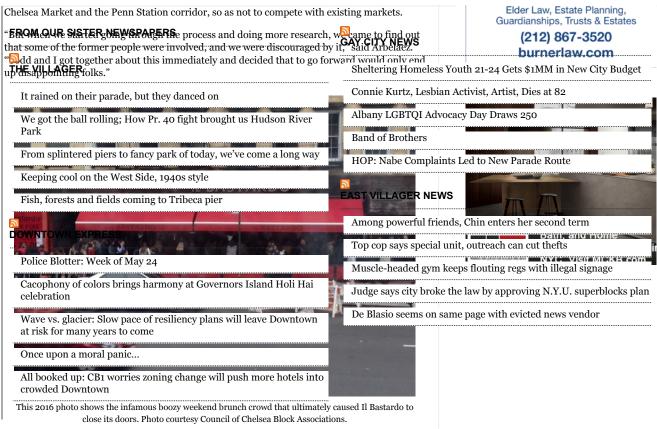
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↑ CHELSEANOW.COM

Apparently, Chef English and his team were not initially aware that Kristin Sollenne, a Food chelseanow.com | NVC Community Media, LLC | ONE METROTECH, 10TH FLOOR | NYC, NY 11201 | PHONE: 212.229.1890 NETWORK personally and write of former II Bastardo owner Robert Malta, would continue to be Chelseanow.com (Copyright 2017). Unauthorized use and/or duplication of this material without with the Project? Involved with the Project? express and written permission from this site's author and/or owner is strictly prohibited. Excerpts

**We'vere going to take betrine lease tribin her, but four and ribeided we had gone through a toron internation, so we respectfully called our attorney and told him to walk away," said Arbelaez. "It was an integrity move. We did not want any association with these same owners. The worse thing we could do is put our investor's money into play and lose it."

"We're looking for a different location and have investigated a few options Downtown, but it's unfortunate we have to walk away because of the relationship with the previous operators," he added. "Chelsea is one of those neighborhoods that you fall in love with, and it's been hard finding another spot like that."

Arbelaez said they have brokers out searching for new locations, but admitted that they would still be interested in 191 Seventh Ave. — if only the circumstances were different.

"If the lease were terminated and we had a second chance to go in front of the board without Kristin Sollenne involved, we would," said Arbelaez.

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