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TWIGS BISTRO AND MARTINI BAR RELOCATING AT RIVER PARK SQUARE

- Move will allow for major expansion -

SPOKANE, Wash. — Twigs Bistro and Martini Bar is relocating its River Park Square restaurant to an expanded space inside the downtown shopping, dining and entertainment center. Twigs will move from the Atrium Cafes to the soon-to-be-vacated Mariposa space also on the third floor, the retail center announced today.

The new location will nearly double the size of the restaurant, from 2,294 to 4,500 square-feet, and increase seating capacity to 150 guests.

According to owners Karen and Jeff Blackwell, public demand for additional dining space sparked the decision to relocate the popular establishment. "We regularly receive requests from businesses that would love to bring meetings here for lunch," Karen explained, "but the space is just too small." Since Twigs was launched, the Blackwells have opened two larger locations on the North Side and South Hill.

"Twigs has continued to grow its business, not only at River Park Square, but throughout the region," commented Bob Smith, the General Manger of River Park Square, "we are proud to be able to be a part of their ongoing success."

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The current staff will more than double to accommodate the increased activity. “Our customers compliment our staff as much as our food and drinks,” said Karen, “We do very little advertising, but continue to grow because of our loyal customer base due to our friendly and efficient employees.”

The design of the new space will reflect the existing sophisticated yet casual atmosphere but will adopt some architectural elements and coloring meant to reflect a modern-day Tuscan Villa.

The Blackwells opened Twigs Bistro in 2001 at River Park Square because it presented an “exciting opportunity.” The name was expanded to include Martini Bar soon after, Karen said, because of numerous compliments about their martinis.

Mariposa is slated to move to the retail center’s second floor next to Aveda and Regis Hair Salon when its lease expires at the end of April. The new location is well-suited to attract Mariposa’s young, fashion-oriented target audience. Renovation of the space is expected to begin May 1.

River Park Square, a dynamic retail center in the heart of downtown Spokane, is the Inland Northwest’s premier shopping, dining and entertainment destination. The center, anchored by Nordstrom includes a 20-screen AMC Theaters, a mix of 60 up-scale national and regional retailers and restaurants and Mobius Kids, a children’s museum. The five story facility is adjacent to Spokane’s largest Macy’s and a covered parking facility. Spokane, the center of commerce for more than 2.5 million people in the Inland Northwest, is the largest population center between Minneapolis and Seattle.