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Popular, glitzy honky-tonk makes its debut at Westgate City Center

By Allison Hamila
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Tonight, the Valley's newest Los Angeles import opens in Glendale, as Saddle Ranch Chop House comes to Westgate City Center.

The Hollywood-meets-Nashville upscale honky-tonk is famous for its mechanical bulls, its scantily clad waitresses and its ability to draw a huge crowd.

This will be the chain's fifth location, following the January opening of Old Town Scottsdale's super-popular outpost, where block-wrapping lines and a packed patio have made the bar the talk of Valley scenesters.

"It's going to be controlled chaos," said Billy Rogers, Saddle Ranch's regional manager, of the 6:30 p.m. party at the nouveau cowboy bar off Loop 101 and Glendale Avenue.



DAVID KADLUBOWSKI/THE REPUBLIC

A mechanical bull, such as the one Will Banning of Phoenix is riding, is one of the attractions at Saddle Ranch Chop House.

Managers anticipate an at-capacity crowd for the opening of such a buzz-worthy bar, although Saddle Ranch is not throwing a big party or sponsoring any specials, according to marketing manager Amanda Ghezzi.

"To us, it's going to be just another night," Rogers added. "To everyone else, I think it's going to be pretty special."

Built like glamorous barns, with raw wood juxtaposed with flat-screen TVs, the bars are dominated by the mechanical bulls and the ring surrounding them.

The location will have the same events at its Scottsdale counterpart, including bull-riding contests on Monday nights, but this location plans on adding a karaoke night on Tuesdays.

Rogers said Arizona has embraced the bar and restaurant's concept enthusiastically, which is why it's the only state besides California now with two locations.

Saddle Ranch Chop House

What: Grand opening.

When: 6:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. today.

Where: 9404 W. Coyotes Blvd., Glendale.

Admission: Free.

Details: 623-889-7770, srrestaurants.com.

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