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LAGASSE’S RESTAURANT “MERIL” FEATURES QUIKRETE® COUNTERTOP, BAR
Riviera Stoneworks Crafted Custom Black Concrete Surfaces

NEW ORLEANS (Aug. 18, 2017) – Chef Emeril Lagasse opened his newest restaurant, Meril in the Warehouse District of New Orleans as a casual chef-driven neighborhood eatery featuring an internationally-influenced menu, rustic interior design and playful décor. A custom black concrete countertop that overlooks the open kitchen and a large concrete horseshoe shaped bar crafted by Riviera Stoneworks using [QUIKRETE® Countertop Mix](#) are critical design components that help give Meril a warm, inviting atmosphere.

Nearly 12,500 pounds of QUIKRETE® Countertop Mix was required to make the concrete countertop and bar. The 24-foot-long concrete countertop and 80-foot-long concrete bar were poured in eight-foot sections and reinforced with rebar for maximum strength. All of the concrete elements were poured upside down approximately three-inches thick in forms to give the tops a smooth finish. Once the concrete cured and was removed from the forms, the pieces were transported about 180 miles from the Riviera Stoneworks facility in Foley Ala. to Meril in New Orleans for installation. A high-gloss sealer was applied to give the integral black color in the concrete surfaces a glassy appearance.

Customers dining at the concrete countertop have the pleasure of watching fresh pastas, Vietnamese spring rolls, Korean Short ribs, pork rib tamales, wood oven pizzas and other dishes on the Meril menu that encourage sharing and sampling. This approachable ambience is extended at the concrete bar where variety of local craft beers and wine are available to accompany menu items. All of the dishes at Meril, which is named after Lagasse’s daughter, are less than \$20 including many small plates and salads that fall below \$10.

“I’ve always had the philosophy that you can never stop learning, especially in the kitchen,” said Lagasse. “There is always something new to uncover, whether it’s an ingredient, a technique or a way of sharing food. As part of the constant desire to evolve, I wanted to create a space where I could develop my own spin on some of my favorite dishes that have inspired me,

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whether from traveling or cooking for friends and family at home. The team and I are having a lot of fun and cooking with lots of love. Nothing is off limits at Meril.”

In addition to the custom concrete countertop, bar and bathroom vanities, a number of other décor elements bring Meril to life including wall murals of fish, ducks and crab, and a cotton candy machine. Meril is Lagasse’s 13th restaurant highlighted by his flagship location, Emeril’s New Orleans, which is only a few blocks away.

QUIKRETE® commercial-grade products have been used on many high-profile restaurant, sports, entertainment and hospitality projects like the Fenway Park, Busch Stadium, Georgia Dome, Omni Nashville Hotel, The Broadmoor Hotel, Kaleidoscope Bistro, Georgia Aquarium, SeaWorld® San Antonio, Wizarding World of Harry Potter and National Museum of the American Indian. For more information on QUIKRETE® products and projects visit www.QUIKRETE.com.

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