

HOB FINE FOODS

MAÎTRE ROTISSEUR, CASTRO BOATENG OPENS A SECOND PROPERTY IN VICTORIA

As Covid struck in March 2020, every restaurant in B.C. closed and many have not reopened. Maître Rotisseur, Castro Boateng, was quick to re-engineer his business model and begun offering a superb range of take-out meals that far exceeded the typical offerings in the frozen food aisle of local grocery stores. This was so successful that he and his wife Charlotte, recently purchased a commercial strata property to address this growing volume of new business.

Invited to visit the **HOB** today, several Victoria Bailliage Members were amazed at its transformation into an elegant operation that can also host events of up to 40 guests.

Glistening white walls, counter and ceilings with touches of black accents created a welcoming atmosphere with a row of tall refrigerated cases displaying dozens of delicious take-home meals, fresh and frozen. Lamb Tagine, Duck Mac & Cheese, Pulled Pork Shepherd's Pie, Tofu and Pork Teriyaki, Vegetable Wellingtons and salads of marinated vegetables were just a few selections on offer, along with Seafood Chowder and African Spiced Tomato Soup. A wall of shelves containing jars of Castro's famous pickled mushrooms and other vegetables, not forgetting the salad dressings, my favourite being the Vanilla and Curry, are supplemented by a range of foods manufactured by local and other chefs from across Canada. Charlotte has also introduced some elegant kitchen gift ideas into the product mix.



Castro talked about the 15-year history that led to the opening of his café three years ago and this new property. He generously treated our group to his African version of Arancini, a baked rice ball on a slick of African spiced tomato sauce, garnished with fine parmesan shavings. This was followed by a serving of Beef Bourguignonne, both dishes are on the take-out menu. Of course, a little red wine was an appropriate accompaniment and a 2012 French Pinot Noir and 2012 Australian Shiraz were perfect.



All Bailliage Members are invited to visit Castro's new "HOB" location, 2829 Peatt Rd in Langford, just across the road and a block south of the Café.

*Gail Gabel, Bailli du Victoria
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