



All That Jazz:

Montclair Social Club updates old-school concept for modern era

Jason Miller had been practicing corporate finance law since 1995. It was not, however, his passion. “I had the idea to start a restaurant for as long as I can remember. I simply reached a point when I felt the timing was right and I wasn’t getting any younger,” Miller said.

So, the first-time restaurateur dreamed big with the purchase of nearly 14,000 square feet of prime real estate in Montclair, a city known for its food and art. “I was interested in creating something more experiential and memorable than many other culinary options in the area,” Miller said. Thus, the Montclair Social Club, a supper club fit for the Jazz Age with nightly live entertainment.

Miller said he also surrounded himself with experienced consultants, including Arlene Spiegel & Associates, a well-known restaurant and hospitality consulting firm in New York City, Garrett Singer

Architecture + Design in Englewood, and nearly five different law firms to work on various components, from trademarks to the commercial lease.

After two years of planning, one year of construction and a gut renovation that spanned two buildings, the Montclair Social Club opened in July — and has been successful since.

With a design reminiscent of the 1920s Deco Era, Montclair Social Club employs 40 and seats 22 at the bar and 120 in the dining area. Montclair Social Club currently hosts semi-private events in the dining area, but Miller said the restaurant is intended for so much more. Its Phase Two expansion plans will make event planning much simpler, he added.

“It’s clearly been an exciting and successful summer,” Miller said. “But you better have a strong passion for this business, because it is very difficult.”