

## Pizza race is over: Tastebud opens first in Multnomah Village

### THE COUNTRY STORE

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

The paper is off the windows, the wood-fired oven is ablaze, and customers are seated in Multnomah Village's newest restaurant, Tastebud.

The pizzeria is located next to Bishops Barbership in what once was Bill Ryan's grocery and Pagenwood antiques and woodworking.

Entering Tastebud, one's eyes, and nose, is immediately focused on the large oven

which is the centerpiece of the restaurant. Reclaimed redwood boards make up the ceiling and Douglas fir tables are surrounded by wheat yellow walls.

The lighting is of the Edison-style era.

"Multnomah Village is a neighborhood we've been drawn to for a long time," said Tastebud owner Mark Doxtader.

Doxtader, whose family lives in the area, used to raise pigs, turkeys, and chickens in Canby. He sold them through his farm, an early adopter of the Community Supported Agriculture model of farming.

Doxtader also specialized in growing diverse crops that included unique vegetables, greens, and herbs that were difficult to find in markets.



The new Tastebud pizzeria in Multnomah Village features a wood-fired oven. (Photo courtesy of Dina Avila, Eater)

In 2000, as a collaborative project with the Portland Farmers Market, Doxtader built a wood-fired brick oven cooking bagels and pizzas. By 2005, demand for wood-fired goods in the Portland area eclipsed the farm. Doxtader named his operation Tastebud and relocated to Portland dedicating all attention and resources to a growing audience in town.

Since then, Tastebud has been a cornerstone of area farmers markets, specializing in pizza, salads and, his own creation, Portland-style bagels.

Another wood-fired pizzeria, Interstate Pizza, located at 35th Avenue and Multnomah Boulevard, has been struggling to open as did Tastebud. Owner Matt Johnson has recently petitioned the city to work with him

on getting the necessary building permits in the building which was once home to Keith's Auto Service.

In Tastebud's case, the owner was lacking the capital to open but after a successful Kickstarter campaign, enough cash came from friends, family, and long-time customers.

Doxtader said he and Chef Jobie Bailey will maintain the integrity of properly sourced ingredients and continue the tradition of building strong relationships with farmers.

Located near the corner of Southwest 35th Avenue and Capitol Highway, Tastebud is open Wednesday through Sunday, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Brunch and lunch will be introduced in early 2016.

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