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Saturday Talk

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PEACH BUZZ / RICHARD L. ELDREDGE, reldredge@ajc.com

Fire, water help spice up Straits eatery

Rapper/restaurateur **Ludacris** and chef/owner **Chris Yeo** are giving the former Spice space at 793 Juniper St. in Midtown a million-dollar makeover as they prepare for the April 25 opening of Straits Restaurant.

As we've previously reported, Straits will feature a modern Singaporean menu. For weeks now, the Johnson Studio has been busy transforming the 218-seat space into an eatery that will pay "homage to [Singaporean] heritage with a subtle Eastern influence," including "a dual focus on the elements

of fire and water, incorporating a color scheme featuring vibrant reds and rich browns, including dark woods and chocolate brown leather."



Ludacris

Additionally, there will be two flanking fireplaces with votive lighting along open brick shafts, a lounge entry area off the bar with banquette seating and a gold-leafed red painted wall with

window slots, which will allow for natural light during the day and "sexy mood lighting at night."

"With a nod to water, edge-lit glass shelves with LED lighting will span the bi-

level wall behind the downstairs bar."

Did we mention the 12-seat private dining room and the 40-seat downstairs Opium Lounge?

According to the advance scoop supplied to Buzz Friday, the restaurant's name "comes from the Straits of Malacca, a waterway which flows between Malaysia and Singapore, where the lifeline of the two countries flows together, exchanging their cultures."

We're told that Straits will be open for dinner seven days a week, from 5 p.m. to midnight Monday through Wednesday, from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursday through Saturday and from 5 to 11 p.m. Sunday. Straits will serve Sunday brunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Straits has three locations in California.

For more info, please go to: www.straitsrestaurants.com.