



## WELCOME TO HELLO PARADISE

**SAN ANTONIO** (January 2021) - You don't need two tickets to travel to San Antonio's newest little slice of paradise. Instead you'll find that one of the city's top names in the bar industry has once again provided a place of pure joy for people to escape if only for a little while – at Hello Paradise.

Adaptation is the name of the game for the bar industry today as COVID-19 restrictions shutter bars and restaurants across the country. Jeret Pena, the mastermind behind local favorites like Stay Golden, Still Golden and The Brooklynite, wanted to create a place to give people hope, as well as great food and cocktails.

"It's to remind us of better times ahead," Pena said. "We can feel like we can escape."

Pena's new paradise is an open-air concept serving the craft cocktails he's renowned for, as well as an authentic Thai menu. Pena saw the new outdoor dining location as the safest option for people to drop their worries at the door during the pandemic and just enjoy a good meal.

Drinks may be on the patio, but Pena said he's still using upscale bar techniques like Spinzall clarification and sous vide infusions. So now people can sip that handcrafted Resting Beach Face in a Solo cup on the patio any day of the week.





And as bar owners across the state file for food licenses to remain open, many have turned to fast and easy options like burgers or sandwiches. But Pena brings a heavy-hitting food menu to be the star of the show, rather than a backup singer. And he's using a secret weapon in his arsenal – his in-laws.

Pena's wife, Jin Maknual-Pena and her parents Dara and Kusol Maknual, brought their Thai traditions to Texas with authentic dishes like pork dumplings, spring rolls, and Pena's favorite, the Thai style wings.

Using Maknual-Pena's grandmother's own recipe, the family has managed to bring this famed dish from Thon Buri Bangkok to the Alamo City. The secret to these crispy, flavorful wings are a marinade with what the Thai people call "the three friends" – garlic, black pepper and cilantro.

Pena said what he loves about the menu is that it's simple, but meaningful.

"These are the dishes that are staples of the Thai culture. In Thailand these items are like some of their ham and cheese sandwiches. The comfort foods we knew as kids," Pena said.

Hello Paradise is already getting local attention from [The San Antonio Express News](#), [The Current](#), and they were recently featured on David Elder's show, [Texas Eats](#). And the opening at the end of December went above and beyond what Pena and his team expected during a pandemic.

I'd love to invite you to this little corner of the city, so you too can say "Goodbye 2020, Hello Paradise."

--

Media Contact:  
Crystal Henry  
352-302-4954  
[crystal@basicpitchmedia.com](mailto:crystal@basicpitchmedia.com)