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**Mehdi Zarekari**

Owner Z Café & Bar/ House Mixologist

Much like a child opening presents, Mehdi just lights up as soon as fruits, flavors and cocktails come up in conversation. Mehdi first got his start in the restaurant business waiting tables at 18. Soon thereafter, he was drawn to the fast paced rhythm of the bar scene and decided that's where he wants to be. He got his big break working as the lone day shift bartender for TGI Friday's at San Mateo, California. Dubbed as the slowest shift, Mehdi proved everyone wrong. He quickly built an entourage of loyal regulars that soon filled the bar. He became so popular that his managers refused to give him a day off. "His regulars just walk back out if he's not around".

His career with "drinks" spans both the east and west coast, working for establishments like the Big Burrito Corporation that owns successful restaurants like Soba Lounge, Kasbah and Eleven. He always ran the busiest shifts and created loyal following. In 1999, he found his way back to the Bay Area, working for the Paragon Group of Restaurants.

As a child, Mehdi was famous for his daredevil stunts. Today, his cocktail concoctions draw the most attention. Behind the bar and on the floor, he is easily the most popular person in the room.

When you find a seat at the bar, be sure to ask for the house special, aptly called "Mehdi Special" or try new concoctions as Mehdi experiments with fruits, spirits and new flavors featured as Z Café's nightly specials.

When not working the floor, Mehdi takes on the role of a devoted father to his sons, Mateen & Mobeen. Occasionally, he immerses himself in a challenging game of chess.