

Vendue Inn in Charleston to get \$4.9M makeover that will spin off new hotel

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The Vendue Inn near Charleston's Waterfront Park is getting a nearly \$5 million makeover that will create two hotels under a single brand.

The renovations are expected to begin in mid-November and wrap up in March, owner Avocet Hospitality Group said Tuesday.

The reshuffling involves 85 guest rooms that are spread over three buildings on either side of Vendue Range, between East Bay and Concord streets.

The Vendue Inn now has 66 rooms in two of the properties, including 45 in the main building at 19 Vendue that houses the well-known Rooftop Bar watering hole.

The others are across the street. Those will be combined with the neighboring 19-room Anchorage Inn, which Avocet bought in August for \$3.4 million. The merger will result in a 40-room hotel called 26 Vendue, said Jonathan Weitz, president of the Folly Beach-based company.

Weitz said the properties at 19 and 26 Vendue will be operated as separate hotels but marketed as The Vendue. The “inn” reference is being dropped.

“Under this restructuring, we can now present guests with two equally matched properties, in the heart of downtown, with each offering its own unique character and ambiance,” Weitz said in a written statement.

The refurbishments will require Avocet to close 19 Vendue during the construction phase. The upgrades include new bathrooms, furnishings and flooring, as well as metal canopy awnings for the exterior.

Plans also call for an overhaul of the inn’s dining amenities. The Library Restaurant at 19 Vendue will be in a larger space under a new, unannounced name. Also, the Rooftop Bar will be outfitted with a new bar, lighting, bathrooms, elevator and other improvements, Avocet said.

The Vendue Inn opened in 1978 with 18 rooms. Avocet purchased the expanded lodging late last year for \$6.9 million.

Locally, the company also owns the 132-room oceanfront Tides Hotel, BLU Restaurant and Bar, and a real estate rental business, all on Folly Beach. Elsewhere it owns a vacation rental company in the French West Indies.

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