

**BOCANOVA
JACK LONDON SQUARE**



**MAURICIO MORA-BONILLA
GENERAL MANAGER**

A native of Costa Rica, with two degrees in restaurant management from universities in his home country and another from the California Culinary Academy, Mora-Bonilla knows Latin American food literally from the ground up: "As a young boy in Costa Rica," he recalls, "I grew up picking coffee beans on the family farm, shimmying up trees to grab plantains in our backyard, and pulling yucas out of the earth. These flavors are a part of me."

Mora-Bonilla boasts 16 years of experience in the hotel and restaurant industry, having led hospitality teams for Marriott Hotels and Resorts and W Hotels, and at numerous Bay Area restaurants, including MarketBar, where he met Bocanova executive chef Rick Hackett and chef de cuisine Ross Kaplan; most recently, he was general manager of Left Bank Restaurants.

His passion, says Mora-Bonilla, is delivering high-quality service with an attentive, talented team. "I want our guests to experience new and exciting flavors, but at the same time to feel as well taken care of at Bocanova as they would in my *abuela's* kitchen back home." He is also, he adds, looking forward to something else: "It will be great to have a place in the Bay Area," he says, "that really knows how to make an empanada—and that cooks the kinds of foods I've loved since childhood without sacrificing the fresh, healthy taste of California cuisine."



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