

Restaurant Founder

Master Restaurant Opening Timeline

This example shows a typical development timeline for a moderately upscale restaurant requiring full construction.

Timeline	Phase	Key Activities
Month 0	Concept Formation	Define concept, cuisine, target guest, competitive landscape
Month 1–2	Business Planning	Startup budget, pro forma, investor pitch, investment structure
Month 2–3	Location Search	Identify properties, analyze demographics, evaluate infrastructure
Month 3–4	Lease Negotiation	Finalize rent, TI allowance, lease terms, exclusivity clauses
Month 4–5	Design Team Hired	Architect, interior designer, kitchen designer
Month 5–6	Design Development	Dining room layout, kitchen design, bar design, lighting plan
Month 6	Permits Submitted	Building permit, health department, liquor license
Month 6–7	Financing Completed	Secure investor capital and bank financing
Month 7	Construction Begins	Demolition, plumbing, electrical, mechanical work
Month 8–10	Major Construction	Kitchen hood, equipment installation, drywall, bathrooms
Month 10–11	Interior Finishes	Flooring, paint, lighting, furniture installation
Month 10	Management Hiring	Hire GM, chef, bar manager
Month 11	Systems Installation	POS system, reservation platform, inventory systems
Month 11–12	Staff Hiring	Hire servers, bartenders, cooks, dishwashers
Month 12	Staff Training	Menu training, service training, POS training
2 Weeks Before Opening	Soft Opening	Friends & family services, operational testing
Opening Day	Restaurant Opens	Open quietly and refine operations
60–90 Days After Opening	Grand Opening	Major marketing push, press, celebration event