

## VERGE Restaurant + Lounge

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*Photo courtesy of VERGE Restaurant + Lounge*

By Laura Ness

Verge. Ponder the word. It's bursting with pent-up energy: possibly poised for greatness. In the case of **VERGE Restaurant + Lounge** at The Toll House Hotel in Los Gatos, it means culturally diverse California cuisine, beautiful backlit infusions and a generous selection of top shelfers.

The talented and friendly bar crew creates their own infusions, such as tequila with Thai peppers or vodka infused with Earl Grey tea: very forte, on both accounts. Bloody Marys or Marias are seriously spicy, martinis are expertly

shaken and served in etched cocktail glasses and your glass of wine comes with a small pitcher and a stemless vessel. Pour at your own pace.

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And if craft brew is your thing, you might settle down for a mouthwatering bounty of bacon paired with beer. For a mere \$14, you can sample turkey, duck and two kinds of pork bacon along with four carefully chosen beers.

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Some of the locally sourced selections include 21st Amendment's Hell or High Watermelon Wheat, described as "summer in a glass." At 4.9% alcohol by volume, and packaged in a cool can, it's a spunky, refreshing beverage that is perfect for being enjoyed on the welcoming, spacious outdoor patio, complete with a waterfall making music in the background.

VERGE is open for cocktails and appetizers beginning at 4pm daily. Dinner service begins at 5pm. Breakfast is served daily, with a brunch on Saturday and Sunday from 6:30am til noon.