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*   DATABASE NAME -T87   (TORONTO STAR)
*   USER NAME     -NEWS ROOM 2
*   USER ACCOUNT  -00002/004
*   QUERY         -"CENTRO"
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\$2 million restaurant
 to open tonight

The most awaited restaurant opening in years happens tonight.
 *Centro,*Franco Prevedello's new \$2 million restaurant on Yonge
 St. at Castlefield Ave., will open its doors, just about a year
 from the time Prevedello started seriously investigating
 locations.

They've barely made it. Approvals from various government
 departments and agencies were still being negotiated this week,
 but Prevedello pledged yesterday that he would be open tonight.

The place is spectacular. Marble, leather chairs and two tiers
 upstairs, the place looks like it's hopping even without people.

The lines are fascinating, the materials first class,
 everything from the art on the wall (the artist who does the
 milk commercials) to the cut-glass windows and \$50,000 railings.

The wine bar downstairs winds around the baby grand piano and
 in front of \$500,000 worth of wine in a glass-enclosed,
 temperature-controlled room.

And the food?

Well, first of all, this is a Prevedello restaurant, which
 should speak for itself after his past successes, such as
 Pronto. And secondly, between Expo '86 (where Prevedello and his
 chef Raffaello Ferrari ran the Ontario Pavilion restaurant) and
 now, his chefs have been working in California (Stars in San
 Francisco among other places), or in Italy preparing for this
 restaurant. The outlook is good.

It's the restaurant that serious eaters have been waiting for
 since Prevedello began digging on the site of a former Loblaws
 store.

It was due to open in the summer but delay after delay with
 contractors and interior design changes to adhere to a myriad of

building codes, delayed its opening week after week. By last Friday, Prevedello was shaking his exhausted head in frustration when he was told his railings inside were one inch too high and he might not be able to open this Wednesday, although he had put out a sidewalk sign that morning announcing the opening date.

But Prevedello smoothed things out and the doors at 2472 Yonge are set to swing open this evening.

KEYWORDS: restaurant first
