

# Stefanie Powers in Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The King and I*



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## Restaurant

### The Matador (West Seattle)

**Average reader rating:** Not rated  
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4546 California Ave. S.W.  
Seattle, WA 98116  
Phone: 206-932-9988

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## DESCRIPTION

Ready for spice, Tamarindo on ice, and one of the happiest happy hours around — all in the comfort of a tight-knit neighborhood? Slip into a pair of *teleguillas* and throw on your *capote*, the Matador is at it again in a brand new arena — West Seattle.

Owners Zak Melang and Nate Opper began the 21-and-over tequila bar and restaurant in Ballard, and opened a second location across the bridge in the bustling Junction of Alaska Street and California Avenue.

"A lot of people from West Seattle come to our Ballard location and encouraged us to open a late night spot there," explains Opper. "This place was just screaming for us."

Exactly what were the bellows beckoning for? Rustic wrought iron décor, a flaming stained-glass back bar, carne asada and a serious selection of tequilas, which took in-depth research and time to find. According to Opper, he and his partner paid a special visit to the tiny Mexican town of Tequila, where they toured (and sampled) tequila at the Cuervo plant and also the Sauza



LORI HINTON

Patrons swarm into the new Matador West in West Seattle's bustling Junction neighborhood.

## MORE INFORMATION

### Food & beverage

**City/neighborhood:** West Seattle

**Cuisine:** Burgers  
Tex-Mex

**Price:** \$\$\$

**Hours:** 4 p.m. - 2 a.m. Monday - Friday;  
11 a.m. - 2 a.m. Saturday and Sunday

**Meals:** Dinner

**Reservations:** Available but not required

**Alcohol:** Beer, Wine, Liquor

**Payment forms accepted:**  
Visa  
MasterCard

**Parking:** Street parking

### Features:

**Happy hour:** 4-6 p.m. and 10 p.m. - 1 a.m. daily

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Featuring 50 types of tequila — from the \$5 shot of Sauza Gold to the \$80 Don Julio Re ál and beyond — both locations boast some of the largest collections of the Blue Agave plant's prized potion.

The menu offers a full range of Tex-Mex spice, including Southwest savories such as Ancho-Chipotle Baby Back Ribs and the BBQ Pulled Pork sandwiches; Mexican favorites like sizzling Skillet Seared Fajitas and Roasted Tomatillo Enchiladas; as well as ribeye steaks and burgers.

Hungry for a screaming deal? During The Matador's happy hour from 4 to 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. to 1 a.m., patrons can share a couple of margaritas, tacos and nachos and walk away full for under \$20. But don't eat too much or you'll burst your already tight pair of *teleguillas*; bull-fighting pants don't come with elastic waists.

*By Lori Hinton  
Special to NWsource*

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