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LIFE/TRAVEL Food

Fine wine and spirits at Sigel's Elite store

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Sigel's Elite has quietly opened on Fitzhugh at Cole to the sound of hammers, the swish of paintbrushes and the aroma of blacktopping.

But even as workers put on the finishing touches, it's clear this isn't your mama's liquor store.

Spacious and modern, its shelves are packed, from Partida Tequila to Caymus Cabernet Sauvignon by the magnum. One of the Madeiras in the fine-wine room dates to 1862.

Longtime wine expert Mike Friend gives the place plenty of street cred, and there's more going on besides wine and beer. The cheese area has vintage Parmigiano-Reggiano wheels with the dates printed on the side; processed meats are coming.

A case of Allen Brothers steaks displays the cuts, so you can see what the bone-in strip and rib-eye look like before you sell your firstborn to buy them. Sigel's is the only retail outlet in the United States for this high-end steakhouse beef.

The case also holds Sigel's more affordable chicken and duck potpies, made at the Addison store.

For weekly wine tastings, usually Friday and Saturday nights, Sigel's will bring out real glassware, the better for you to appreciate the wine and spirits.

In addition, check out the fine- spirits room, still under assembly, as well as a humidor and a tasting classroom.

Small flat-screen televisions are to be positioned at the ends of aisles to provide information about products.

Kim Pierce