

THE DOWNTOWNERS

West Palm Beach business owners dish about why they're downtown – and why you should be, too!

Natalya Vorobyeva came to West Palm Beach from Moscow two years ago with her four children, mom and two dogs in tow. In October, she opened Sourbon, an eclectic eatery on Clematis Street serving fresh, healthy fare. The name is a play on the famous French cooking school. Vorobyeva, 38, ran a small catering business in Russia, preparing quality healthy dishes for an elite clientele. Her credentials also include a pastry certification from culinary school, because she loves to bake for her family.

How I've seen downtown grow:

I came here in July 2018, and it's changed a lot with the street beautification and new tenants enhancing downtown's offerings. The transformation of the 200 block has created an even more welcoming environment for visitors and residents. The almost park-like streetscape appeals to my love of plants and gardens, and it draws more people downtown to enjoy all the amenities, which is good for business and the community.

What makes downtown unique:

How involved the City of West Palm Beach is with the businesses. As a business owner, it makes us feel special. The Waterfront park and pedestrian areas integrated with restaurants, shops and businesses

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create a unique and vibrant destination both for tourists and residents. To have all of this within a one- or two-mile radius is very special.

Where I eat downtown:

I like Avocado Grill because I appreciate high-quality ingredients. And I love the curry with pineapple at Kabuki. On days when I have time to take a short stroll, you'll find me at Hullabaloo.

Where I shop downtown:

I love to window shop at Pioneer Linens. On Saturdays, I stroll the Antique and Flea Market and always find something unique to take home.

Where I play downtown:

Being a mother and business owner, I don't have much time to play but when I do, I enjoy a cocktail at Rocco's Tacos or Lynora's. I can keep an eye on Sourbon and support our local businesses at the same time.

Why I want to be downtown:

This is the only place we wanted to be. I took a lot of time selecting a location for my business, and



Natalya Vorobyeva pictured inside her eatery on Clematis Street. PHOTO BY JIM BERIAU

downtown had the diversity I was looking for. Also, its combination of historic and modern really appealed to me. And being so close to the water, nearly every day is a tropical paradise. It's the icing on the cake.

Why you should visit downtown:

There is always something happening! The City does such a great job of celebrating the community,

and everything is right here. There is something for everyone, — families, groups, couples, young and old. We are blessed with one of the best climates in the country, and our downtown really showcases the idyllic Florida lifestyle.

– Janis Fontaine