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## Fall Tracking Report: ilili

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Fall is a time for restaurant openings. Lots of them. Restaurateurs will make promises, excite us, with their grand plans. Consider this here the intel you need to keep abreast of it all—and start obsessing at just the right moment.



**ilili**, 236 Fifth Avenue, Gramurray; (212) 683-2929.

**Initial Debut Projection:** [Late summer 2007](#)

**Current Debut Projection:** Mid-October

**Odds, On Time Arrival:** 4-1

**Eater Projected Opening Date:** 11/5/07

For starters, as [previously Plywooded](#), we're dealing with a restaurant whose name is a *palindrome*. Cut the strings and soar, people. Per [FloFab's fall preview](#), **ilili** is the brainchild of chef Philippe Massoud, who plans to offer "high-end Lebanese food, with some dishes touching on Phoenician outposts like France" in a big two-story space. And, yeah, this place is *big*. A special correspondent sends along the above pictures, the first known peek inside the interior, and this note: "ilili's 'Late Summer' opening is looking more like Late Fall. I snuck in for these two pictures (the second is blurry from me rushing away from a worker). Looks like a 3,000+ sq foot space but I could not see around the back right corner. **High ceilings showing off some nice woodwork.**" They're actually answering the phones at ilili now, which means they can't be *too* far off, but they're also saying "two weeks," which we all know means at least four.



- [ilili Restaurant](#) [Official Site]
- [Plymania: ilili](#) [-E~]

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