

## **Bombay Spice Brainchild of Extraordinary Man**

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Written By Abby Fotis for Az Weekly Magazine

John N. Kapoor recently brought something different to the table by expanding his business expertise from pharmaceuticals to restaurants. "I have been in the healthcare business all my life and I want to translate that into a healthy lifestyle for myself, my family and all types of people," said the 64 year-old venture strategist and scientist who wanted to switch gears despite having done well - to say the least - in the pharmaceutical business.

Kapoor recently opened Bombay Spice, a fast-casual style Indian restaurant that redefines Indian cuisine as light and healthy, while maintaining traditional ingredients and flavors. "I want to popularize healthy Indian food in the U.S. because I have been eating it and seeing it all my life in India," he said.

Considered a leader in the pharmaceutical industry, Kapoor is currently the president and sole shareholder of E.J. Financial Enterprises, Inc., a healthcare consulting and investing company. He is also chairman of the board of directors of Akorn, Inc. and NeoPharm, Inc., both privately-held pharmaceutical companies.

Kapoor received his undergraduate degree from the University of Bombay in India. "I graduated first in my class and I was very fortunate to have received a full-ride scholarship to UB for graduate school," he explains. "Otherwise, I may not have had the opportunity to come to the U.S." He arrived in the States in 1964 and received his doctorate in medicinal chemistry from the University of Buffalo in New York. In 2000, he gave \$5 million to the school.

Generic drug company Lyphomed provided Kapoor's initial post-academic employment, a company that he bought in 1981 for \$2.7 million. The remarkable businessman dramatically turned the company around, raising revenue from \$6 million in 1981 to \$159 million in 1989. He sold the firm to a Japanese-based pharmaceutical company in 1990 to form his present company, E.J. Financial Enterprises, whose products range from ophthalmics to experimental gene therapies for cancer and AIDS.

Said Andrew Fotis, General Manager of Bombay Spice's parent company JNK Holdings, "I have been in the restaurant business for 35 years and I found John's concept to be innovative and like nothing I've ever seen." Fotis indicated that they are in the process of expanding the restaurant across Arizona.

Kapoor also recently opened a contemporary Japanese restaurant called Roka Akor, already located in London and Macau. "My experience at Roka Akor in London was one of the best dining experiences I have ever had in my world travels," he said, despite his obvious bias. "I wanted to share my experience with the American people who have never seen a restaurant concept like this before."

In the next five years, Kapoor wants to see his various projects come to fruition. This includes the expansion of Bombay Spice, the development and expansion of Roka Akor, and the success of his newest drug, synthetic marijuana for cancer patients. "I love challenges and coming up with solutions to perfect a product or concept," said Kapoor.