Yes, Michael Feinstein has a ’40s-style supper club in LA with a Liza Minnelli-inspired bar

Upstairs at Vitello’s is expanding its restaurant with a bar called Feinstein’s at Vitello’s, a 1940s-bar/club-inspired venue that bears the name of composer Michael Feinstein, with a separate bar and lounge that pays tribute to the legendary Liza Minnelli.

Speaking from New York, Feinstein – the multi-grammy-nominated musician known as the “ambassador of the great American songbook” who also serves as principal conductor of the Pasadena Pops – has been a patron of the club for years.

“I never occurred to me that there might be the possibility of collaboration when I was going to the club at that time,” said Feinstein, who headlines a pair of shows there Friday, June 14 and Saturday, June 15. He also opens Piano: summer concert series on the grounds of the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Gardens on Saturday, June 22 with “The Great American Songbook: Icons from Tin Pan Alley, Broadway and Hollywood,” which features HBO’s “Roman” actor Kevin McKidd and vocalist Melissa Errico as soloists.

But Feinstein at Vitello’s co-owner Rhea Rosen knew from the moment Feinstein walked onto the stage of his New York City nightclub, Feinstein’s 54 Below at Studio 54.

“I was immediately taken by him and his presence,” he said, recalling a visit to New York last September. “I had heard of Feinstein and I was very interested in the same dinner show idea with old songs. I was just blown away. I absolutely loved it.

A few weeks later, Feinstein walked upstairs into Rosen’s club to see a show.

Rosen approached him and after introductions, the club owner suggested the idea of what would ultimately become Feinstein’s at Vitello’s.

“I was thrilled with the idea,” Feinstein said, adding the transformation of his new third club that includes Feinstein’s at the Nells in San Francisco promises more than just a new venue.

The 120-capacity club has recently undergone changes, including custom wooden paneled bar with red mirrors, booth seating, chandeliers, and a new lighting and sound system. While the club continues to feature a wide range of music, performers and comedians, Rosen said, “Part of the attraction is Michael’s knowledge.”

In the coming weeks, Melissa Manchester, Jane Lynch and Kate Fleming, Lacie Kavan, Jane Monheit and many other of his “talented friends who want to be part of the experience,” he said, are slated to perform. The full lineup is at the Vitello’s website.

Just off the music space is a 1940s-inspired lounge called Liza’s, which features a full bar for signature drinks and spirits and food.

“Lisa gave us permission to create the room using her memorabilia,” Feinstein said.

And if that wasn’t enough, Feinstein, a longtime vegan who is also gluten-free, is adding “a large vegan presence” to the wedding-chef-driven fare.

As he put it, “I just want to have a club where people can get great food and on top of that, that is vegan and gluten-free, flavorful and made by a chef who really knows what he’s doing is really special.”

Feinstein’s at Vitello’s

Where: 4349 Tujunga Ave., Studio City

Information: 818-766-9005

www.feinsteinsatvitellos.com

Inside the new Feinstein’s at Vitello’s. (Courtesy of Feinstein’s at Vitello’s)

Liza’s lounge adjacent to the entertainment space of Feinstein’s at Vitello’s where guests can order handcrafted cocktails and small plates. (Courtesy of Feinstein’s at Vitello’s)

Members of Vitello’s is welcoming staff at Feinstein’s at Vitello’s. (Photo by Stephen Roddy)