Yoko Ono's publicist sues Eataly for \$20M after bouncer 'beatdown'

By Julia Marsh and Natasha Velez August 29, 2014 | 11:52am



Birreria at Eataly Restaurant.
Photo: Mark Von Holden/ Wireimage

Maybe the security guards at Mario Batali's Eataly need to give peace a chance.

Yoko Ono's publicist is suing the Manhattan pasta emporium for at least \$20 million after he was allegedly beaten up by bouncers, thrown through a glass window and then called a "p—-" and a "f—-."

Kip Kouri, head of Tell All Your Friends PR, was trying to get a table at Eataly's popular rooftop beer garden Birreria on July 17 when he was "violently assaulted by" 10 unnamed security guards, according to his Manhattan civil suit.

His attorney, Richard Klass, told The Post his client was at the Fifth Avenue eatery with his boyfriend, sister and stepmother and got into an argument with the hostess about his reservation.

"Apparently it became some type of shouting match, there was name calling — referring to him by derogatory homosexual names — and it got very heated," Klass said.

Then Kouri was violently tossed through the window and onto the street, according to his suit. He was rushed to the hospital and received stitches for gashes on his leg and head, Klass said.

"He was on crutches and could hardly walk," Klass said, adding that the slurs also took an emotional toll on Kouri.

"He's extremely upset," Klass said.

But an Eataly spokeswoman has defended the guards, claiming Kouri was "visibly intoxicated and acting as a potential threat to others."

He was "aggressive" with the hostess, argued with the staff and used "hostile gestures and disrespectful language," the spokeswoman said.

Klass denied that his client was drunk.

Police sources told The Post that Kouri filed a report for harassment, but he did not mention the homophobic attacks.

The police report says that while Kouri was being escorted out of Eataly "all parties fell through a glass door."

The case is closed and no charges have been filed.

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