"Bernie Madoff Owners" to buy the legendary White Horse Tavern

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The "worst owner" of the city and business partner of Donald Trump's dismissed assistant, Anthony Scaramucci, is about to take control of the legendary White Horse Tavern in Greenwich Village.

The vintage sedan was home to many alcohol-crazed artists, writers and musicians, including the Welsh poet Dylan Thomas, who allegedly swallowed 18 shots of whiskey before collapsing on the sidewalk and dying.

The building that houses the popular pub located at 567 Hudson Street and adjacent buildings 561 Hudson and 304 W. 11th St. are to be sold for \$ 14 million to Steve Croman, nicknamed the "Bernie Madoff Owners".

The buildings also have 17 apartments at market prices.

Croman spent eight months in prison for tax evasion and borrowing. He was released last year. He was also to pay \$ 8 million in compensation to tenants with stable rent that he was accused of having harassed and forced to abandon their apartments.

But Croman will have no involvement in the white horse. If the sale goes as planned on April 9, the tavern will be rented for a period of 15 years to veteran restaurateur Manhattan, Eytan Sugarman. The lease is now escrowed.

Sugarman is a Scaramucci partner at Midtown's Hunt & Fish steakhouse club. But Scaramucci will not travel from the White House to the White Horse – neither he nor any other Hunt & Fish partners are involved in the tavern, said Sugarman's representative.

Sugarman also owns the Southern Hospitality and Made In Pizza barbecue facilities.

The White Horse was founded in 1880. Its atmospheric confines were a favorite haunt of twentieth-century writers Jack Kerouac, James Baldwin, Norman Mailer, and musicians Bob Dylan and Jim Morrison.

Current White Horse operators Eddie Brennan and James Munson purchased the buildings in the 1950s and are now retiring.

Their contract of sale with Croman stipulated that the White Horse was to be rented to operators who would exploit it as in the past. Sugarman is committed to managing it "exactly as it is," according to Meridian Capital Group broker James Famularo, who negotiated the lease.

Famularo would not have identified the new owner, but several sources confirmed that it was Croman.

Neither Croman nor Sugarman could be reached. A friend of Sugarman said, "He does not really know the guy [Croman] well. But he does not foresee any problem. He will be a good tenant and hopes to have a good landlord."

All of Croman's buildings are now managed by another company, the management of Michael Besen, in New York. The state Attorney General chose Besen to operate all 100 Croman properties for five years beginning in July 2018.

The White Horse Building is also likely to be under Besen's control. Croman's lawyer Andrew W. Albstein did not immediately answer the questions.

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