

A Piece of Italy - in New Jersey?

"(It) is the ideal restaurant for superb Italian cuisine. Not only is the food scrumptious, but the staff is quite attentive and charming... the atmosphere is pleasant... reminiscent of a quaint Italian villa... which makes dining feel (as) relaxed and comforting as one's own home". Jennifer, Parsippany, NJ

My Friend,

I have a "secret" you need to know about. A little piece of old Italy hidden in northwest New Jersey. A place away from the crowds. A place for you to relax... enjoy family and friends... and feast on tasty Northern Italian cuisine.

I'll let you in on where it is a bit later. But first, let me tell you about the treat you're in for...

Picture a bistro in Florence... You and I walk in... Mendy, the owner, greets us with a smile and a handshake. He asks your name, and asks us to follow him. We walk through the cozy front room - perfect for sharing moments with your special someone.

We sneak a peek as a server passes by with a tray of entrées. The sweet smell of garlic and tomato tickles your nose... and that chicken dish looks yummy!

Tonight, we're dining in the back room. You hear the waves of happy chatter and laughter... people enjoying each other's company. You feel like you're at a family party.

That's because people bring their families and friends here to make their events truly special.

"My fiancée' and I tried (the restaurant) and absolutely loved it so much we booked our wedding rehearsal dinner, and also made reservations for Valentines Day! The food and service are perfect and the atmosphere is cozy, inviting and romantic." Melissa, Wharton, NJ

There's a nice crowd tonight, but don't worry. The staff are caring and attentive... and will take care of us like we're family. As we're seated, they bring us a tray of bruschetta. Taste the cool, tart tomato and onion.... the lively basil and oregano, topping the crunchy toasted bread....

"We were looking for a good Italian restaurant and naturally (they) came to mind... Of all the things we miss from NJ, this tops our list." John, Perrysburg, OH

Now, check out all the great dishes on the menu... what will you be enjoying tonight? You'll find it hard to pick just one entrée!

The Tortellini alla Pana is great - tortellini in a white sauce, with peas, prosciutto, romano & parmesan cheese. You'll love the warm, wet, smooth texture, and the little "pop" when you bite through the al dente pasta to get at the tangy cheese filling. How about the Veal Sorrentino - a medallion of veal topped with eggplant and fresh mozzarella in a red wine sauce? There's the Shrimp Fra Diavolo... Or the linguini with clam sauce.

Tonight, let's start with a Caesar Salad... a generous serving of crunchy romaine lettuce and garlic croutons, showered with a tangy, creamy dressing... And the entrée? How about what you saw on our way in... the Chicken Portofino - boneless breast of chicken, stuffed with imported prosciutto, ricotta and mozzarella cheese... breaded, pan fried and served with marinara sauce, mushroom roasted potatoes & broccoli.

Have you thought about dessert? Would you like chocolate cake... or mud pie... or tiramisu? You'll love the tiramisu here! How about rounding out our meal with a cup of coffee and a piece of cool, creamy, sweet cheesecake?

A feast this good isn't even available in "The City!"

We celebrated my hubby's 50th birthday... two couples came in from NYC and were shocked that the food was better than Italian restaurants in Manhattan, and much less expensive! Your place is a hit! Stacy, Denville, NJ

After we clean our dessert plates, and have those last sips of coffee, I'll settle our tab. We walk out the door, and remember we're not in Italy, but in "Joisey." And we agree to come back, soon.

Thanks for joining me in a "virtual dinner." The only things missing are a full belly, and a doggy bag to take home.

As much fun as this is, the most vivid imagination can't do this restaurant justice!

We have been to your wonderful restaurant numerous times and have NEVER been disappointed...look forward to many more visits and great dinners... Mary Ann, Bayonne, NJ

We love (this place)!!!! We love the atmosphere; very quiet, very clean and just plain terrific!!!! The food is the best around and the prices are even better. John and Jamie, Mine Hill, NJ

We have been going (there) since you opened your doors. I have purchased many gift certificates for family and friends. It's a perfect gift - one size fits all! Keep up the good work. Bette & Rich, Oak Ridge, NJ

I almost forgot to tell you... this slice of Italy in New Jersey is Portofino's, located at 5129 Berkshire Valley Road in Jefferson Township, between Route 15 and Route 23. You can save a place for your special occasion by calling (973) 208-1818.

Hurry up and try Portofino's today - if you eat there before May 15, tell them that I sent you, and you'll get one free appetizer (per table) with your dinner.

Call now for a reservation - or just stop by - and treat yourself to a piece of Italy in New Jersey. And if you can't get a table, you're always welcome to sit with me.

Sincerely,

Ray Woody

P.S. - One of the best parts of eating at Portofino's is the price! Hot and cold appetizers are between \$3.95 and \$8.95. Dinners run from \$10.95 to \$18.95, and include -

- A basket of toasty-warm bread and butter
- A crunchy house salad
- Your choice of a fresh vegetable or pasta side dish
- Your delicious entrée, carefully prepared and served piping hot.

You'd better get there before everybody hears about what a great deal Portofino's really is!