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CLOSE



OLIO RISTORANTE/PIZZERIA 5990 JERICHO TURNPIKE COMMACK

By Joanne Tamburro

One thing anyone can agree on is that New York has the best pizza anywhere in the world except maybe for Italy. Have you ever tried pizza or Italian food for that matter in any other state, or anywhere out of the five boroughs and Long Island? Pretty terrible. We are so spoiled in this region of the world, for we have the privilege of enjoying the best pizza around. Bagels, fall into this category of regional best, but that's another story.

When Joe Pullara, 24 and John Campanella, 23 were 15-years-old, they worked at a local pizzeria in Selden called Caffè Amici. Joe went on to study engineering at New York School of Technology and John became a licensed stock broker in Manhattan. While in school they each worked part time in Caffè Amici and became like family with the owners and partners.

The two friends took a vacation together and while enjoying a steak dinner in Cancun, Joe and John talked over starting a business together. "We came home, quit our jobs and started looking for a place" laughs Joe. "We didn't leave any time to mull things over or change our minds, we knew this was the right thing to do" continues John. The two new partners went to their best friends, Sal the owner of Caffè Amici and Nunzio the owner of La Scala became part of a group of successful partners and restaurant owners which

includes several fabulous Italian eateries around Long Island.

Joe and John searched for a location to call their own and found out through a mutual supplier that Mandolino's in Commack was up for sale. This was the perfect location and just the place to premier Olio and serve Commack and the surrounding communities some of the finest



Italian fare around. Olio Ristorante and Pizzeria have delicious and authentic old world Italian food and gourmet pizza. If you've ever tried any of the other restaurants related to this group of partnerships like, La Scala, O Sole Mio, Buona Sera, and Caffè Amici, you know these restaurants are synonymous with deliciousness.

The varieties of gourmet and traditional piz-

za's are colossal at Olio. You can stop in for a quick slice in the pizzeria or enjoy a full service four course meal on a table clothed table in the elegant restaurant next door. The decor is cozy and warm with hand painted murals on the walls that gives you the feeling of eating in a vineyard or adobe grotto. Monday and Tuesdays are pasta night at Olio from 4-10pm and

for \$9.95 you have a choice of many pasta dishes, salad or soup, choice of dessert, and a glass of house wine. If you love salads and make them your main course you have to try the Ginger Calamari salad or the Gorgonzola salad, add chicken or shrimp and you have a meal.

Catering is a specialty at Olio and is sure to be a hit with all your guests. The catering menu is quite extensive with choices from Filet Mignon Marsala, Lobster Ravioli, or Eggplant Rollatine to name a few hot trays. Round platters, Party Heros by the foot and cookie platters are also provided for any party large or small.

If you are in the mood for authentic, old world style Italian food, and pizza that is delicious right through to the last bite of the crispy crust, then you must visit Olio Ristorante & Pizzeria at 5990 Jericho Tpke. in the Pathmark Shopping Center. Call and have a pie made to order at, 858-9898 you will make this place one of your favorite places to visit.

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