

# Cafe Oliverio moves, loyal customers follow

Artie Oliverio has again packed up his kitchen and taken it on the road.

This time, Cafe Oliverio has found a new home in Farmington Hills, bringing a group of loyal regulars and a New York-style Italian cuisine to an airy, casual ambience.

The move from Royal Oak to 11 Mile and Middlebelt brings chef Oliverio closer his area restaurant origins — Long Lake Road in West Bloomfield Township in the early 1980s. It also, he said, puts Cafe Oliverio closer to 90 percent of its regular patrons. "They claim this is much better, closer for them," Oliverio said.

But as always, said Oliverio and new business partner Tim Timmons, Cafe Oliverio's menu boasts fresh ingredients and made-from-scratch dishes that can be specially prepared.

"There's a lot of things we do here you can't get anywhere else," said Timmons, who formerly owned Peacock's Cafe & Grill on the same site and now handles the business side of things at Cafe Oliverio. "Everything is finished, sautéed, cooked to order."

Oliverio, a Brooklyn native with 25 years in the restaurant business, prides himself on light sauces made of imported tomatoes, stuffed pastas from his New York factory, seafood brought in

**Cafe Oliverio**  
 ■ 28938 Middlebelt Farmington Hills (northeast corner of 11 Mile and Middlebelt) (810) 476-1780  
 ■ Hours: 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. Saturday, 4 p.m. - 10 p.m. Sunday  
 ■ Menu: New York-style Italian, with chef Artie Oliverio's own inventions. Appetizers: pasta, seafood, New York style meat dishes, lunch menu, beer and wine.  
 ■ Atmosphere: Casual fine dining with an Italian restaurant ambience.  
 ■ Cost: Appetizers from \$2.25 to \$3.95 (later for two), pasta dishes from \$8.95 to \$15.95, steak \$14.95 to \$16.95, other dinner entrees from \$10.95 to \$16.95.  
 ■ Reservations: Accepted. Suggested for larger parties.  
 ■ Credit cards: Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover.

fresh daily and a unique, versatile menu with many dishes of his own invention.

"You can come here every night for a year and never eat the same thing twice," he said.

He pushes the Eggplant Rollatini — rolled eggplant

stuffed with angel-hair pesto and covered by marinara sauce and cheese that's served as an appetizer or an entree — and salmon dishes cooked in three different styles.

There are a dozen appetizers on the dinner menu, from the soup of the day to a tortellini for two filled with cheese and pumpkin in a cream and wine sauce.

The restaurant also offers a dozen pasta dishes, another dozen entrees, seafood, New York strip steak served three different ways, beer and wine (a liquor license is in the works), desserts and coffee and a small menu for children. Several meatless dishes are available.

Oliverio also runs a wholesale food business that serves other area Italian restaurants. Sauces by the quart are available at the cafe.

Oliverio and Timmons say the restaurant, remodeled since its days as Peacock's, has a less-formal feel to it than when it was in Woodward. There, they said, a fancier atmosphere, along with a bar and a piano, gave it an unintended posh feeling.

Diners "felt like maybe it was for special occasions, which it wasn't intended to be," Timmons said.

The move has also reduced overhead and allowed price cuts up to \$4 on entrees, Oliverio said.



At your service: Artie Oliverio presents some of the items that have made his restaurant so popular including mozzarella and roasted peppers, Mussels Marinara and Chicken Francese.

## RESTAURANT SPECIALS

Send information for Restaurant Specials to: Keely Wygonik, Taste/Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax (313) 591-7279.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Michigan Chili Cookoff — Five Lakes Grill**  
 This year's cookoff on Sunday, Sept. 8 has been moved to the Five Lakes Grill in Milford. Tickets are \$35 per person, includes beer, wine, pop, mineral water, coffee as well as a wide variety of vittles. Two bands will alternate on stage, Mariachi Nuevo Zapopan and the R.F.D. Boys. Tickets available at the Lark or Five Lakes Grill, or by calling the Lark 9 a.m. to 3:30

p.m. (810) 681-4466. Winner represents state at World Championship Cookoff, proceeds go toward scholarships for culinary arts students.

**COPPER MIA CHILI COOK-OFF**  
 At's Copper Mine, 1704 W. Maple (corner of Maple and Decker) Walled Lake will host a chili cookoff and benefit fundraiser noon to 10 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 8. Country music by "The Rambling Country Band," cold beer, Chicago Hot Dogs, grilled burgers, Italian sausage. For more information, call (810) 624-9659.

**Jazz on Orchard Lake**  
 Alexander Zorjic and Friends will play an open-air concert at St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake to benefit the college's academic programs and scholarship fund, 2-6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 8. Sampling of wines and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets \$35, \$100 and \$250. Call (810) 683-0621.

**Excellibur**  
 Gourmet meal with wine, Monday, Sept. 8, premium cigars supplied by Churchill's, Cost \$175 per person, call (810) 358-3355 for reservations/information. Restaurant is at 28875 Franklin Road, Southfield.

**Schoolcraft College Culinary Extravaganza**, 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22, Waterman Center on campus, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia. Sample food from metro Detroit's finest

restaurants, enjoy music by members of the Jack Brokenasha Quartet, or place a bid in the silent auction, prizes include a dinner for eight prepared by Chef Jimmy Schmidt et al. restaurant. Tickets \$40 per person or two for \$75. Call (313) 462-4417.

### Sweet Lorraine's Cafe & Bar

Sponsoring benefit with Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, 6:30-10 p.m. Monday, Sept. 30, titled Nefertiti, at the restaurant, 303 Detroit Street, Ann Arbor. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, tickets \$30 for non-members, \$25 for Kelsey Museum members,

\$15 students, call (313) 647-0441. Approximately 60 local artists have designed original tote bags, often reflecting an ancient theme, to be offered at silent auction. All proceeds support Kelsey Museum's educational and outreach programs.

### MENU SPECIALS

**Relish**  
 Lobsterfest underway, \$15.95 special price continues through Sept. 30 at Relish, 34555 W. 12 Mile Road (between Farmington Road and Drake Road) Farmington Hills. Special dinner features 1 1/4 pound Maine Lobster, sourdough bread, corn, cole slaw, baked potato. Call (810) 737-4URC for reservations.

### East Side Mario's

"Dinner for Two = Movies for You," through Sept. 30 at Metro Detroit's three East Side Mario's restaurants. Each party paying two or more dinner enjoy free Sunday through Thursday, between 4 p.m. and closing, will be presented with a Blockbuster Video coupon. This coupon is valid Sundays through Thursdays, and expires Oct. 20. It is redeemable at any participating southeastern Michigan Blockbuster Video store location and allows the recipient to rent one movie and receive a second movie rental of equal or lesser value free. Blockbuster Video membership rules apply.

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