

# Greek dishes are family's specialty

BY KEELY WYCONIK  
STAFF WRITER



If someone didn't tell you about Grecian Tower Restaurant, you might miss it. Tucked in the Merri & Plaza on busy Five Mile Road in Livonia, Grecian Tower Restaurant serves up delicious home-cooked food daily.

You'll feel like, and be treated like, family. Steve Kaplantz and his wife Sylvia opened the restaurant 20 years ago. Both were born in Greece. In October they'll be celebrating their 33rd wedding anniversary. The Kaplantzes live in Livonia. They are active members of Nativity of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Plymouth Township, and supportive of community events.

Steve Kaplantz said he learned how to cook while working at his uncle's restaurant in Detroit. Before opening Grecian Tower, he operated a coney island and barbecue carryout restaurant.

"This restaurant was dad's dream, and people love it. Everything is homemade," said Emmanuel Kaplantz who helps his parents at the restaurant as he has since he was a child. His sister older Sophia, a dental hygienist and mother of two, and brother Ted, an engineer, have also worked at the

**Grecian Tower Restaurant**  
31116 Five Mile Road, Livonia  
(313) 522-2807  
Hours: Restaurant open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays.  
Menu: Specialize in Greek and American foods. Serve breakfast, lunch and dinner.  
Highlights: Children's menu, carryout menu, homemade Greek specialties like stuffed grape leaves, Moussaka and Souvlaki. They bottled their secret salad dressing, and sell it at the restaurant for \$2.25.  
Prices: Breakfasts range from \$1.30 to \$6.95. Sandwiches \$1.75 to \$4.25, dinner entrees \$4.99 to \$8.95. Daily specials.  
Credit cards: Cash only, no credit cards accepted.

family's restaurant.

Grecian Towers serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. The family shares responsibilities. You'll always see one behind the counter or in the kitchen cooking. The restaurant is not fancy, but cozy and very comfortable.

Customers call Sylvia "the doctor" because her lemon rice soup helps soothe their colds. It's available everyday, in addition to a homemade soup of the day.

Breakfasts are pretty much what you'd expect to see anywhere, omelettes including a Spanish and



ART EMANUEL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Family cooking: Emmanuel Kaplantz his mother Sylvia and father Steven work together at Grecian Tower Restaurant in Livonia.

Greek, French toast, pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, and ham. There are early-riser specials daily.

Lunch is served 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and dinner 5:10 p.m. daily. One of the most popular lunch items is the Grecian Tower Special Salad topped with the restaurant's famous dressing.

The dressing is also available at many area markets including Joe's Produce, La Rosa Market, Food Emporium, Stan's Market, Burt's Meat Market, Mom's Fruit Market,

and the Original Hellenic Bakery.

You'll find a little bit of everything on the dinner menu. Daily specials reflect the availability of fresh in season foods.

Greek specialties include lamb chops, stuffed grape leaves, Moussaka made with eggplant baked with ground beef and topped with a golden cream layer, Spanakotopitas, (spinach and cheese pie), thin layer of strudel filled with spinach, Greek Feta cheese and seasonings, shish kabob, chicken kabob, and gyros.

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