

## MALLS &amp; MAINSTREETS

## Stelline from page 6A

## House specialties

John Richardson of Bloomfield Township said his "capellini a scapece" was "delicious, superb." It features angel hair pasta served with rock shrimp, artichokes, tomatoes and basil, \$9.95.

The house specialty, "Stelline," includes star-shaped pasta with rock shrimp, ginger cream and parmesan, \$11.95.

Manager Gesell said business has been good and steady since the Jimmy Schmidt-Michael Ilitch restaurant opened on the second floor of the Somerset Collection two weeks ago.

The interior is chic, with an open-air balcony providing diners with a great view of the mall's rotunda, with Big Beaver Road beyond. Those who sit inside the restaurant dine in the presence of a wrap-around wall mural entitled "The Modern Day Casanova" by local artist Robert Scheffman.

Stelline's lunch patrons were waiting about 10 minutes for a seat last week during the noon to 1 p.m. lunch hour. There are no reservations except for parties larger than six persons. The wait

staff is attentive and knowledgeable about the entrees, and willing to make suggestions.

Background music from Fellini films and "The Godfather" is played for atmosphere, along with Pavarotti recordings.

Many of the customers are Sebastian's Grill regulars who are trying something different. Mall management is delighted with the opening, saying the Collection needed more dining opportunities for a long while.

**Rejected by Birmingham**

A bit of history about Stelline, which originally sought a location in downtown Birmingham in 1991. That city's refusal to grant a liquor license to the restaurateur led them to consider the upscale mall's second floor.

An extensive wine list is found at the rear of the menu; wines by the glass and half-bottle fill a front page.

Lunch entrees are priced between \$4.95 and \$11.95 with pasta specialties leading the way. Eight different pizzas are available.

There are several chicken entrees and nine different salads. The

petto di pollo alferri, a chicken dish, was tender and juicy, topped with lemon and served with red pepper polenta.

Desserts include fresh fruit with cream, a sweet almond and chocolate tart, and ladyfingers soaked in espresso and topped with a cream sauce. Several coffees and after-dinner "grappas" are also available.

The dress of patrons takes its cue from the wait staff members, who wear jeans and brown shirts with neckties. Last week the restaurant had only one high chair, to the disappointment of one family of diners who left when there was no place for their infant daughter to sit. The staff explained that more chairs were on order and would arrive shortly.

Stelline also caters to hungry mall employees and shoppers in a hurry, with a limited carry-out menu featuring salads, sandwiches, soups and desserts located at the bar.

Stelline opens for lunch Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dinner is served from 5-10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 5-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The lunch menu is served on Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. For more information call Stelline at 649-0102.

## Dino-dollars from page 6A

tors tags at the neckline. There are JP keychains, JP nightlights, JP boxer shorts and JP coffee mugs. Dakin, the official name in plus toys, has the rights to market the JP stuffed dinosaur line. Sales are good, according to employees.

## Big books

Since Jurassic Park was born in the bookstores (it was a book first), Barnes and Noble and B. Dalton are decorating their entrances with dino-titles. At B. Dalton these include "Dinosaurs: A Global View," "Dinosaur Hunters: Eccentric Amateurs and Obsessed Professionals" and "The Making of Jurassic Park." Bookstores also have dinosaur model kits, evolution wall charts and posters.

At the Adamo Collection on Maple in downtown Birmingham, the Jurassic Park line of neckties is hot. The silk ties are \$28.50. The polyester ties are \$18.50.

"We're selling quite a few," manager Connie Baylerian said. "A paleontologist stopped in on Saturday and bought one. He told us he had Tyrannosaurus Rex bones in his home and dino skulls. But you don't have to dig dinosaur bones to wear one. The ties appeal to anyone interested

in dinosaurs. They're sharp."

## Barney's not bitter

Yet all is not Jurassic Park. The purple preschool dinosaur of television fame, Barney, has his share of the dino-dollars. Barney merchandise has its spot on the check-out counter, with People magazine reporting that retailers expect to see 1993 sales figures of \$200 million for Barney videos, toys, books and accessories.

"There seems to be a natural inclination towards dinosaurs, especially with children," said Joyce Harding, consultant with Retail Directions of Royal Oak. Harding worked with the Detroit Zoological Society to set up the Dinosauria Shop in the zoo's dinosaur exhibit, open now through Sept. 12.

"The best-selling item in the shop is the dinosaur pincher," she said. "This dinosaur-on-a-stick opens and shuts his mouth for \$1.75. Kites, shirts and cups are also big sellers. The zoo store was set up two months ago and sales are already 25 percent ahead of the goal. Proceeds benefit the Zoological Society."

Reports from Hollywood indicate that to turn a profit, "Jurassic

Park" must earn \$250 million. Opening weekend sales figures: earned producers between \$48-\$50 million; there's no telling how much Jurassic Park souvenirs will bring in.

"Remember that gift shop scene in the movie, where the camera pans all the mugs and sun visors with the Jurassic Park logo?" one astute Summit Place Mall shopper asked. "Self-promotional, don't you think? But I enjoyed the irony."

Paul Kochis, 13, and his brother, Billy, 9, of Birmingham saw the film and gave it a thumbs up. But only Billy hopes to buy some dinosaurs to play with afterward.

"The movie's really neat because it's so graphic," Paul said. "It's worth going to see if you like dinosaurs."


Of course, the preoccupation with feeding in the film makes moviegoers hungry on their way out of the theater.

McDonald's has the Jurassic answer with dino-meal combinations where drinks are served in a giant cup emblazoned with different scenes from the movie.

Looks like the summer of '93 will be fossilized forever in plastic.

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