

DINING

Rosa's has a flair for Italian

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

When the Mihailovich family gets out on a business venture, they plan to stay around awhile, in fact, for generations. Three years ago, John and Rosa Mihailovich, bought the Leather Bottle Inn, a landmark restaurant for more than a quarter century on Farmington and Eight Mile in Livonia. Six weeks ago the Mihailovich family reopened it as Rosa's Italian Chophouse.

"We're the same place, but we've upgraded the atmosphere, the ambience and the quality," explained Chef Dave Harback. "It's a casual dining restaurant for an extended family."

Rosa and John's children, Tom and Maria, as well as Tom's wife, Beth, run the eatery. "We want it to be a restaurant that will carry on from generation to generation," explained Tom Mihailovich.

Their newest venture focuses on food, but this time, rich, authentic, homemade Italian dishes prepared from scratch. Diners also have their choice of fine meats showcased in the "Chophouse" portions of the menu.

"We have fresh, hand cut, made-to-order steaks," Harback said. "Because of Rosa and John, there are a lot of family traditions and we want to extend that to customers."

"We have \$20 to \$25 a plate fare in a \$11 to \$15 price range," Harback said. Appetizers are \$5.95 to \$8.95 and include shrimp cocktail served on ice; stuffed mushroom caps; and an assortment of Italian meats and cheeses called, Antipasto Italiano.

Tempting

Six veal dishes are prepared in a carousel of flavors, including one with a lemon wine sauce with artichoke hearts.

While the expansive menu can seem overwhelming, diners can't miss the dishes that take top billing as "house specialties," like the eggplant parmesan; penne with artichoke; pasta bot-



STYL PHOTO BY DRYAN MITCHELL

Plenty: Pasta Bettina is fresh shrimp, calamari, mussels and scallops served over a bed of pasta.

tina, which is fresh shrimp, calamari, mussels and scallops and seafood pasta with shrimp, scallops and crabmeat sautéed in garlic.

Hearty Italian food lovers will also revel in the Italian Trio that offers Italy's finest dishes on one plate. It includes meat and cheese ravioli, lasagna, mostaccioli and a meatball served with meat sauce. Poultry fans can order the marsala, piccata, scaloppini, parmesan and broasted varieties.

"All our sauces are made from scratch," Maria Mihailovich said. "Each plate is all fresh and made individually for each person."

Pizza is available for those who want a more casual meal with the usual cheese and variety of toppings. Kids 12 and younger are served spaghetti and meatballs, fish and chips, hamburger and fries, cheeseburger and fries and chicken strips and pizza. Each child's meal, priced at \$3.50, also includes pop and ice cream.

Rosa's Italian Chophouse opens daily at 11 a.m.; on Sunday the restaurant closes at 9 p.m., Monday and Tuesday at 10 p.m. and Wednesday-Saturday at 11 p.m. Call (248) 474-2420, for reservations for large groups.

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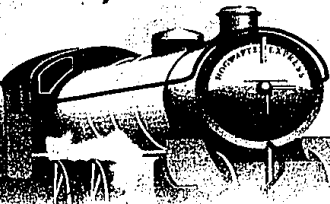
\$12.95 Adult

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Complete Roast Turkey Dinner includes all the trimmings, salad, cranberry sauce, dressing, whipped potatoes, candied yams, gravy, vegetables, bread, and pumpkin pie for dessert.

All checks will be totaled with 6% sales tax and 15% gratuity.

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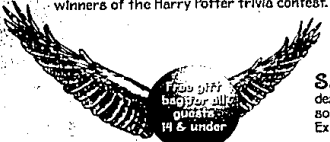
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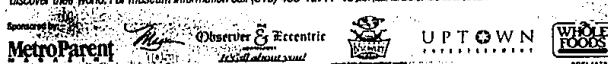
Friday, November 16, 2001

Adventure begins promptly at 7 p.m.

(Movie begins at 7:45 p.m.)

Tickets \$25. For tickets call (248) 352-0990.

Proceeds to benefit Detroit Discovery Museum. Detroit Discovery Museum is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating
an interactive, independent children's museum in Detroit. It is our goal to provide the children of the metropolitan area with
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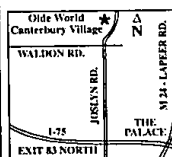
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