

Milton Means Business

Stecchino's fine food, ambience pleasing patrons

By RICHARD VIVIAN
The Champion

They knew there was a demand for more restaurant choices in Milton, but the owners of Stecchino's Italian Eatery never expected to be as busy as they are.

"We opened on a Friday, even though everyone said we were crazy to do so, and we've been busy ever since," said owner Christine Manchisi. "They say you should open on a Monday, start the week off slow and work toward the busier days."

Along with husband and co-owner Joe Manchisi, Ms Manchisi spent nearly five months preparing the Steeles Avenue restaurant for its April opening.

It was important to get the ambience just right, she said.

"We've had a great response to the look and the atmosphere of the restaurant," Ms Manchisi said.

Heading up the decorations is a wall-length mural of an Italian coastline — designed to give the appearance of sitting on a patio overlooking the ocean.

"People are coming in just to see the artwork in here," she continued. "It's all hand-painted. He (Mr. Manchisi) did the design and then the artist took it out of his head."

It may have been the intrigue of a new restaurant that first attracted customers, but serving up a variety of fresh pasta dishes, sea bass and lobster has kept the establishment jumping, Mr. Manchisi said.

"We've actually had to turn people away because it's so busy (on a Friday and Saturday night)," he said. "We haven't even really done any advertising. We just have fresh food that working people can afford."

And the location doesn't hurt them either. Not only is the restaurant situated on one of the busiest roads in Milton, but a number of nearby offices make for sizable lunch crowds, the owners said.

"There's lots of interest here," Ms Manchisi said. "There's usually 60 or 70 people who come for lunch."

For the most part, everything has run smoothly since opening, which is cause for a sigh of relief for Ms Manchisi, who called the couple's restaurant ownership a "fluke."

"I'm actually a banker and my husband sells real-estate. We just wanted to do something different," she said, adding her husband does have restaurant management experience.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Stecchino's chefs Carmine Torchia (left) and Serdjo Lakich (right) show a sampling of the dishes on the menu at the Italian restaurant that was opened in April by Christine and Joe Manchisi (centre). The eatery is located on Steeles Avenue and is attracting large lunch and dinner crowds.

Pinnacle Award nominations still open

Nomination deadlines for the fourth annual Pinnacle Awards for Business Women of Distinction have been extended to July 31.

The original nomination date for women of Halton and Peel regions was set for last month, but extended after several requests to do so were made.

"Community response to the awards program has been very positive," said Ed Lincz of Erin Mills Town Centre, the award sponsor. "We're happy to provide the opportunity for people to nominate and recognize deserving friends and colleges."

Five awards will be handed out during a cere-

mony held at the mall September 19. Award categories include most successful start-up; education, training and development; innovation; community and volunteer contribution; and business success.

To receive a nomination form, contact Katherine Bruni at (905) 924-4442, ext. 244.

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