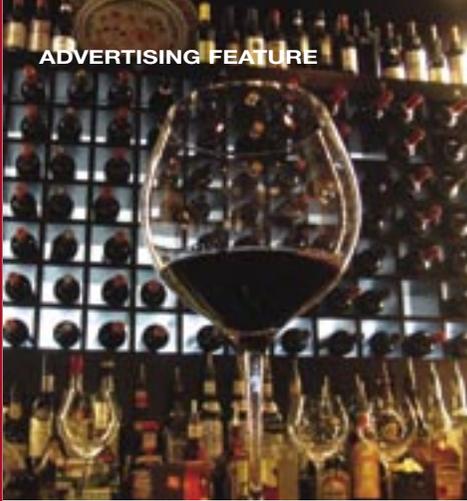


ADVERTISING FEATURE



Aquamatta is a fun downtown enoteca-trattoria with a warm and welcoming atmosphere. It opened its doors in May 2004 under the partnership of Camillo Bisaccioni and Sergio Cherici, boyhood mates who grew up in Tuscany together. Their idea was to open a casual restaurant specializing in top-quality Tuscan food at a moderate price. The restaurant has met its promise, offering a unique dining experience. Head Chef Camillo Bisaccioni emphasizes on traditional Tuscan cuisine and their "salumeria" provides the restaurant with Italian artisan meats and cheeses as well as house-made products such as bresaola and soppressata. Aquamatta operates also as fine wine shop, offering hard-to-find and vintage bottles creating a unique wine list.

2A/48 Courthouse Lane, City. Ph: 302 0478.

Sovrano Supermercato & Enoteca

Situated just 20 minutes from Newmarket, Sovrano, Auckland's newest Italian Supermercato, has a diverse and inexpensive range of Italian regional delicacies, that will excite any food enthusiast or wine lover.

Sovrano is a one-stop Italian shop with an incredible array of directly imported confectionery, pickles, olive oils, balsamics and pastas as well as an expanding range of fresh cheeses – such as Gorgonzola and Mozzarella di Bufala – and deli meats. Also don't miss their delicious almond biscotti and Italian Panforte. You can also find New Zealand's largest range of Italian Wines, Spirits, and beverages at Sovrano, with an Italian Café soon to open. 239 Burswood Drive, Pakuranga. Ph: 271 5969. Visit www.touchofitaly.co.nz for more information.



Il Forno is a delightful Italian Bakery and Café in Ponsonby. Il Forno – meaning 'the oven' – bakes over 20 different traditional Italian breads, cakes and pastries fresh every day. Il Forno also offers a range of fine Italian coffees, sandwiches, specially house-made pastas, raviolis, gnocchis and accompanying sauces. Putting together an authentic Italian dinner has never been easier! A favourite amongst locals, Il Forno has big convivial tables, super-friendly staff, combined with a relaxed atmosphere – which makes it the perfect place for a real break in our busy lives. People travel across town especially for their mouth-watering doughnuts and their cakes, pastries and other sweets are just buonissimo!

55 Mackelvie Street, Ponsonby. Ph: 378 0264.



ITALIA ITALIA ITALIA ITALIA

WITH THE ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL ON FROM OCTOBER 4 TO 18, THIS MONTH IS THE PERFECT TIME TO DISCOVER THE BEST OF ITALY RIGHT HERE IN AUCKLAND. VIVA ITALIA!

Gina's Pizza & Pasta Bar

It's been around for many good years. Yes it's located in one of the most questionable parts of town but this doesn't seem to bother its patronage of suburbanites and city slickers.

Food is the main draw card at Gina's. Owner Alessandro Fantoni picked up his first pan in his nonna's humble kitchen at age four and so began his love affair with food. The focus is Tuscan-based but they also do lots of fresh fish and seafood. Pizza. Pasta. Mains. It's all there and it's all good! Gina's is popular for its wonderful food, exuberant atmosphere and over the top service. You don't go to Gina's for a quiet night out! Oh no, you'd best stay home for that. 209 Symonds St. Ph: 302 2061 or book online at www.ginas.co.nz. Open: Dinner 7 days & weekday lunches.



Ciao Ristorante

Ciao Ristorante is a fantastic Italian restaurant on the North Shore focusing on genuine traditional Italian food with a personal flair from owner and chef Paul Radicevic. Ciao specialises in game meats such as pheasants or wood pigeons, but also offers a wide range of pasta, pizzas and meat and seafood dishes. In the kitchen, Paul is adamant about using the best organic ingredients and following traditional recipes using old Italian cooking standards. Plus the wine list is truly amazing, especially the many vintage bottles at affordable prices.

A new addition to the restaurant is a deli where you can buy imported Italian cheese such as parmigiano reggiano and buffalo mozzarella as well as Italian cured meats and olives for cheaper than at the supermarket! 328 Lake Rd, Hauraki Corner, Takapuna. Ph: 489 1332.



Dante Alighieri Society Auckland's Italians and Italophiles can find a meeting ground at the Dante Alighieri Society in Freeman's Bay. The society, named after Italy's most illustrious poet, was founded in Rome in 1889 by dedicated men of letters with the aim of promoting Italian culture and language throughout the world. Today it boasts over 450 centres throughout the globe, and is a dynamic hub of learning. The Auckland branch offers Italian language classes from pre-schoolers to adults, and further classes on varied topics like Italian cuisine and singing. The society also offers an interesting calendar of regular events, like a coffee and conversation morning the first Saturday of each month, and an Italian movie screening on the second Monday. A variety of concerts, parties, cultural events and festivals take place throughout the year. Some of these celebrations are well connected with Italy. For instance, around January 6 (Epiphany) an old woman flies on a broom all the way to Auckland, landing on the Domain to give presents to all the children who can say ciao! Membership is just \$15 for students/senior citizens, \$30 for individuals and \$40 for couples/families, and a warm Italian welcome is guaranteed for all! *Freemans Bay Community Centre, 52 Hepburn St, Freemans Bay. Ph: 376 3853. Email: info@dante.org.nz.*



European Language Academy

There are numerous reasons to learn Italian. Apart from the vogue, the mental exercise and the culture, it's always useful to speak another language. Italy is a perpetual fascination, a country of colours and aromas, of ideals and culture. Italian language is enchanting with its richness of inflections and nuances and it's the language of love! Italian popular culture – including everything from Roberto Benigni's films to Eros Ramazzotti's and Andrea Bocelli's music to the best pizza recipes – is made even more enjoyable when you know a little of the lingua franca! Italian (as well as French, Spanish and German) classes start **9 October** at European Language Academy. *100 Franklin Road, Ponsonby. Check out www.eurolang.co.nz or call 3612345 for more information.*



Il Buco

Voted Best Pizza 2004 & 2005 by Metro Magazine, Il Buco is a little pizzeria on Ponsonby where you'll be overwhelmed by the many choices of pizzas and their top quality. Owner Jonny Rudduck got inspired by his many trips to Rome to create the best pizzas in town. One of our favourites is the Primavera with caramelised onions, artichoke, asparagus, mozzarella and brie – absolutely delicious!

Probably one of the reasons why Il Buco is so popular is that everything from the sausages on the pizzas to the Tiramisu is made on site. Also don't miss their deliciously decadent hot chocolate and try one of their biscotti made by Peter Chaplin who used to be Madonna's chef!! *113 Ponsonby Road (opposite Brown St). Ph: 360 4414.*



Sage Pasta Restaurant

offers Auckland diners authentic Italian creations, with the freshest and finest ingredients. The menu boasts daily handmade pasta dishes such as the Seafood Tortellini with a lemon beurre blanc sauce and the Eye Fillet with Cognac and green pepper corn sauce. Sage has a warm and inviting atmosphere and the friendly staff offer a great European-style service and fluent wine-appreciation to help you choose the perfect wine. Having worked at some of Europe's finest restaurants, head Chef Raymond Andrew brings his creative flair and experience. And together with owner Kim Korkman, a passionate foodie and chef, this proven duo is providing Auckland with an authentic Italian fine dining experience. *Cnr Atkin Ave & Tamaki Drive, Mission Bay. Ph: 528 4551.*



Portofino Restaurants

With several branches around Auckland, Portofino restaurants were first created 20 years ago by Italian brothers Gino and Kiro who wanted to share their passion and love for Italian food with New Zealanders.

Portofino's cuisine is based on traditional Italian cooking style reflecting a Northern influence. All the Portofino restaurants offer an extensive list of Italian and local wines matching the fabulous cuisine. Overall, it is a warm and friendly dining experience with the spirit of a true family business. Portofino restaurants are fully licensed and open 7 days a week. *Several locations: 99 Custom St, Viaduct, ph: 356 7080. 156 Parnell Rd, ph: 373 3740. 71 Tamaki Drive, Mission Bay, ph: 528 1212. 8 Dorchester Rd, Meadowbank. Ph: 528 0088. 234 Jerovis Rd, Herne Bay, ph: 361 3586. Visit www.portofino.co.nz for more information.*

