



restaurant review

Lee and his family and staff

LEE'S SUMMIT'S NEW RESTAURANT *is family-owned and serves great Italian cuisine.*

Bella's Italian Restaurant
511 SE Melody Ln.
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www.bellaomo.com



In early March, expectations were high as Winterset residents gathered for food, drink and great company at **Bella's Italian Restaurant** in Lee's Summit. It was a very special evening as they enjoyed awesome food in the cozy atmosphere in Bella's private dining area. No one left hungry or disappointed as the staff at Bella's took good care of everyone.

The evening started with a brief history of the restaurant by owner, Lini Vellano. He explained how his grandparents are from Bari, Italy and immigrated to the Bronx, NY, and that's where he learned to make many of the dishes that are featured on the menu at Bella's in Lee's Summit.

From the Bronx, Lini and some of the family made their way to Dallas/Fort Worth, TX, where they have another restaurant. It was at their Texas restaurant a few years ago where he met Lee's Summit mayor, Bill Baird, who told him he should come to Lee's Summit and open an Italian restaurant because at the time, there weren't any Italian restaurants here. So Lini came, saw an opportunity and after many renovations to their current location on Melody Lane, on Oct. 7, 2019, he and his family opened **Bella's Italian Restaurant**.

Lini moved his family, including his wife and young daughter (she's 3 now), to Lee's Summit from Texas. He also brought many extended family members with him, too. Many of them also work at the restaurant as well, including his mom, his brother Genesi (he's the chef), his cousin Didi (who was one of our servers for the Winterset Night Out) and his cousin AL, who moved to Lee's Summit from New York and also helped served the Winterset group.



Dito



Chicken Piccata



Chicken Marsala



Baked Tortellini



Tortellini with Meat Sauce



And they served us well. We started out by sharing appetizers including stuffed mushrooms that melted in the mouth, bruschetta, garlic cheese bread and fried cheese (mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce on the side). But the best part of the evening was the entrees which were all different as every Winterset resident ordered an entrée from the menu.

The residents enjoyed Bella's signature dishes including Chicken Albani, Lasagna, Lobster Ravioli, pizza and Tortellini Michelangelo and several others. All the dishes at Bella's are made-from-scratch and Lini adds, "If you want us to make something that's not on the menu, just ask. Or you want to change an ingredient or two, we are happy to do it." Lini emphasized to the group that they really want to cater to their customers' tastes and unlike some chain restaurants, their food is authentic and original. That was certainly the case the night of the Winterset event.

Here's what some residents had to say about their night out at Bella's:

The Chicken Piccata was tender with a nice lemon butter sauce and good capers.
-Wendy E.

The Chicken Albani has a wonderful sauce and the stuffed mushrooms were great.
-Marie W.

The Chicken Alfredo was excellent.
-Julie G.

They offer a variety of Italian dishes, the food is great and so is the service.
-Linda M.

The service was awesome, it's a good value and worth coming and trying.
-Linda R.

In addition to the dishes on the menu, Bella's also offers gluten-free options, a children's menu and catering services for 10 to 100+ people. They have lunch specials from 11am to 3pm and their private dining area can seat up to 50 people if you have a large group. They have a full bar with a good wine selection and they offer take-out, too. They are open Monday-Saturday: 11:00am to 10:00pm; and Sunday: 12:00pm to 9:00pm.

Lini says, "We love to host families of all ages, from 1 to 100+ years old. Come dressed casually or dress-up for a night out. All are welcome at Bella's." We say to Lini and his family, "Welcome to Leo's Summit." And we encourage Winterset neighbors to get out and support this new local, family-owned business. You will be glad that you did.

DISCLAIMER: The business assumes no liability for any products and/or services that it changes or exchanges for its items.

