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The flavors of Italy come alive at Portobello in Oakland

For [Portobello](#)
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. With a traditional, yet contemporary, Italian/American menu of 60 entrees, there is a delectable dish to satisfy any customer who enjoys good food and wine in a beautiful setting either indoors or out.

While traveling overseas for an epicurean indulgence may not be in your vacation plans just yet, why not savor your next mealtime at a Jersey locale that is greatly reminiscent of the ambience and flavors of Italy?

Dining at the [Portobello Restaurant](#) in Oakland is a treat for anyone who relishes an excursion to this European country for old-world décor and authentic cuisine. With a traditional, yet contemporary, Italian/American menu of 60 entrees, there is a delectable dish to satisfy any customer who enjoys good food and wine in a beautiful setting either indoors or out.

The rustic, ornate restaurant interior has modern touches reminiscent of a Tuscany villa. The backdrop is a pleasant setting for private parties held on the second floor, or for lunch and dinner with family and friends on the ground floor, which can seat 400. An expansive outdoor space with tables for 160 patrons is bedecked with greenery once again and reopened for dining under the protection of a shaded canopy. For hotter days later in the summer, accommodating fans will provide a light breeze through the alfresco setting.



As the seasons change, so does the menu here with a diverse variety of pasta sauces as well as selections that reflect ingredients currently in season or trending in the food service industry.

“We decided to give our customers a different experience,” said Vincent Amen, operations manager, about the annual outside décor themes. “Where customers feel like they’re getting an escape from normal New Jersey dining.”

As the seasons change, so does the menu here with a diverse variety of pasta sauces as well as selections that reflect ingredients currently in season or trending in the food service industry. Short rib ravioli, zucchini flowers or Mandarin calamari, anyone?

“I’ve done my research on other Italian restaurants,” Amen said. “There’s a major choice in difference between us and them on menus.”



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A bar menu and an á la carte array of side dishes gives diners a chance to try several appetizing fare as well.

Family patriarch Frank Amen is the chef and owner of the restaurant and the nearby banquet hall. Before emigrating from Italy at the age of 15 with his parents, he was raised on a farm where he learned how best to preserve and cook fresh ingredients. His experience working in restaurants followed, which enhanced his desire to personally own an establishment catering to large groups and restaurant guests which he officially launched in 1992.

That original building eventually became the current event venue when the stand-alone restaurant, a short walk away, was completed in 2008. It was a project six years in the making but Amen had a keen idea on how he wanted to portray the establishment to his customers which certainly catches the eye in this woodsy suburb of Bergen County.

His sons, Vincent and Anthony, manage the day-to-day administrative duties of the two facilities located at 175 (restaurant) and 155 (banquet hall) Ramapo Valley Road.

Group reservations for summer and fall are now being booked. For more information, including take-out menu selections, visit: www.portobellonj.com or call [201-337-8990](tel:201-337-8990).



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