

CRITIC'S PICK: THE BEST NEW RESTAURANTS OF 2015

Dining — 04 September 2015



More than 30 restaurants opened in Broward and Palm Beach counties in the past 12 months. All are notable additions to the dining scene, but these five deserve a special nod for their unique concept, atmosphere and, oh yes, the food.

By Rebecca Cahilly

Louie Bossi's Ristorante Bar Pizzeria

1032 E. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale

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louiebossi.com

Louie Bossi is the kind of chef who makes you excited about food. Largely self-taught, his zest for cooking is nothing less than contagious.

When we heard that Big Time Restaurant Group (BTRG) – owners of City Oyster & Sushi Bar in Delray Beach, Grease Burger & Whiskey Bar in West Palm Beach, Rocco's Tacos, and Big City Tavern, where Bossi was executive chef – was planning a new restaurant for Fort Lauderdale, we waited breathlessly for the opening. The wait was worth it.

Situated in the former SoLita space on Las Olas Boulevard, Louie Bossi's features a renovated interior with streetside patio seating and a charming courtyard around back for dining or a drink and some bocce ball around a crackling fire pit. It fills the need for a happening downtown lunch spot, after-work happy hour or family Sunday brunch place.

Above and beyond the cool atmosphere and energetic vibe is the team in the open kitchen – headed by Chef Louie and BTRG Corporate Chef Lisabet Summa – hand crafting the pastas, pizzas, salumi and traditional Italian dishes. The list of housemade items here is impressive, from the pasta – all 13 types – to the breads and pizza dough, to the gelatos, pastries and cookies, and a mouthwatering selection of salumi.

Chef Louie has worked his way up the ranks in BTRG kitchens over the past 15 years, learning on the hoof and going above and beyond to create the best and most authentic dishes. His star continues to rise here.