

Tuscany Ristorante Italiano Preparing To Open Second Location in York County

Jen Holden, Peninsula Chronicle

January 25, 2023



Photo courtesy of Tuscany Ristorante Italiano's website.

YORK-The owners of Tuscany Ristorante Italiano in Newport News are gearing up to open their second restaurant on the Peninsula. Brothers Jose, Carlos, and Mario Vela have determined that now is the right time to grow their business and plan to open another location in Washington Square Shopping Center in the Grafton section of York County by the end of April.

Tuscany Ristorante Italiano will move into the space that was last occupied by Thai Siam Cuisine, which closed in December 2021.

The Vela brothers have owned and operated the Tuscany Ristorante Italiano restaurant that's adjacent to Mission BBQ located in Turnberry Crossing in Newport News for more than five years. The fine-dining, family-friendly restaurant was originally established by Aldo Bertuglia close to two decades ago before he decided to sell it to the Vela brothers and focus his attention on running Tuscany Ristorante Italiano on Longhill Road in Williamsburg.

"My brothers worked as chefs for the previous owner, who's from Italy, for more than ten years," said Jose Vela. "He taught them how to make the delicious, authentic Italian cuisine that we continue to serve today."

Before joining his brothers when the family purchased Tuscany Ristorante Italiano in Newport News, Jose Vela said he gained invaluable customer-service experience while working as a server at a local Mexican restaurant.

“We have many loyal customers who visit our restaurant a few times a week,” said Jose Vela. “Some of our regulars visit so often that I know what they’re going to order as soon as they enter the restaurant and there’s no need to ask. Many of our customers come from other cities, especially Yorktown. People have been asking us for years when we were going to open another location in Yorktown because that’s where many of them live.”

Lou Sosa, a realtor with Heartland Realty and a regular at the restaurant, notified the Vela brothers of the prospect of opening a second location in Washington Square Shopping Center when he heard the space was available.

“I knew the location was perfect for them, not only because of all their current customers who live in York County, but because of the prospect of gaining new customers as well,” said Sosa. “Washington Square Shopping Center gets a lot of traffic because of the Food Lion and other businesses located in the shopping center, and the Velas offer the most authentic Italian cuisine in the area.”

Tuscany Ristorante Italiano has an extensive menu that offers more than pizza and spaghetti. It’s dinner menu presents more than 50 entrees to choose from in addition to salads, appetizers, pizza, and desserts.

“We only use fresh ingredients, and our meatballs, sausage, dough, and sauces are all homemade,” said Jose Vela. “Our most popular items are the lasagna, flounder Maryland, and chicken or veal parmesan.”

The new location at 5318 George Washington Memorial Highway offers 3,575 square feet of space and will include two large event rooms for private parties. Like the restaurant’s original location, there will be a full bar on site, tablecloths and elegant table settings on every table, and Italian vocalists streaming from its speakers. The owners predict the new facility will seat close to 150 people.

Hours of operation for the Newport News location are 4:30pm to 9pm Monday and Tuesday; 11am to 9pm Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday; and noon to 9pm Saturday and Sunday.

To check out the restaurant’s menu, visit its [website](#). Visit Tuscany Ristorante Italiano’s [Facebook page](#) for information on weekly specials and to keep abreast of changes on the horizon.