



Sign in to NJ.com »
Not a member? Register Now »

Site Search

Search Local Business Listings

Go

Home News Weather Sports Entertainment Living Interact Jobs Autos Real Estate Rentals Classified Ads Shop

Top Stories



Young N.J. hero gains \$10,000 college scholarship



Real Housewives of N.J. fashion show fight



Roman Polanski freed by Swiss, not welcome in U.S.

Home > Warren Reporter > Business

Gluten free menu has earned Hackettstown's Mama's Restaurant plenty of praise

Published: Monday, July 12, 2010, 12:22 PM

WR Warren Reporter
Follow



HACKETTSTOWN — When customers began asking for gluten-free foods, Tom Schiano of Mama's Restaurant/Café Baci, started educating himself about Celiac Disease, which affects one in 133 people. He soon revamped his restaurant's kitchen and created a gluten-free menu, free of the protein (gluten) found in wheat, barley and rye. He even sent staff members to classes to learn to prepare gluten-free dishes safely. Word has spread among those with the disease and a Google search of gluten-free foods in NJ brings up rave reviews and often touching expressions of gratitude from those restricted to a gluten-free diet. But catering to niche groups is nothing new at Mama's/Café Baci. They also offer a Smart Eating menu designed to take the guesswork out of healthy eating while dining out and vegan-friendly cheeses. "All of these menu choices can also be ordered for off-premises catering and for events at Bello Giorno, our Belvidere catering facility for large parties like weddings," he said. "And, of course, we've never strayed from our heritage of creating the finest, authentic Italian cuisine around." First Hope Bank's Hackettstown office is currently highlighting Mama's Restaurant and Café Baci as part of the bank's program of featuring the products and services of its business customers. Mama's began in 1970 as a small pizza shop at the Hackettstown Mall. In 1985, the pizzeria moved to the plaza it now inhabits as one of four stores. Over time, Mama's began to acquire more and more space and eventually bought the plaza which now houses Mama's, Café Baci and the Rainbow Room. Available for parties such as wedding showers and christenings, Café Baci holds up to 50 guests and the Rainbow Room accommodates 30. Schiano notes that the Rainbow Room will undergo renovation this July to enlarge it to a 45-guest capacity. If one could define the Mama's business philosophy in two words, they would be "family" and "service." Schiano and his brother, Luigi, are co-owners and both employ their 23-year-old sons at Mama's, while family members and staff are involved with the operations of Bello Giorno. Staff members who are not blood relatives are still considered family by the Schianos, who pride themselves on their long-term employees and extremely low turnover. "In business today, you have to know who you are," Schiano says. "We can't be all things to all people, but we can stay true to our Italian heritage while extending our brand into endeavors that make sense. But it all must be delivered with unbelievable customer service." Visit mamascafebaci.com and bellogiornocatering.com for more information. First Hope Bank is a



Tom Schiano, co-owner of Mama's Restaurant/Café Baci, prides himself on the excellent service provided by his staff, many of whom have worked at Mama's for years. He is pictured with Samantha Tillou, left, and Sarah Yurinch.

1 Comment 0 Recommend 2 tweets retweet 0 Share

Follow NJ.com What's this?

Facebook Twitter RSS Mobile

All NJ.com Facebook & Twitter accounts »

Most Popular Stories

Commented Recommended

full-service financial institution with locations in Andover, Blairstown, Great Meadows, Hackettstown, Hope and Sparta. Visit FirstHope.com for more information.

Related topics: [hackettstown](#)

Sponsored Links

Share this story



Story tools



More stories in Warren Reporter

Previous story

[Warren County Convention & Visitors Bureau contest offers uplifting prize](#)

Next story

[Obituaries: George A. Bush of Belvidere, former Pennsylvania Railroad trackman](#)

1 Comments

Feed

Post a comment



[wantfrieswiththat](#)

July 13, 2010 at 6:22AM

Follow

I was skeptical about this gluten-free stuff, but after doing some research it actually makes a lot of sense. You do have to be careful though, to supplement your diet with extra fruits and vegetables, as well as fish oil to avoid nutrition deficiencies.

Reply Post new

Inappropriate? Alert us.

Post a comment

Sign in to NJ.com

Username

Password

Remember me?

[I forgot my username or password »](#)

Don't have an account?

[Register now for free](#), or sign in with any of these services:

[Connect with Facebook](#)

[AIM](#)

[Google](#)

[OpenID](#)

Warren Reporter headlines

- [For 300-plus Warren County volunteers, working for free in scorching heat is a 'God thing'](#) 1:27PM
- [Warren County Prosecutor's Office Fugitive of the Week](#) 9:48AM
- [Sherri Maricle and 'Five Play' return to Hackettstown](#) 5:30PM
- [Purple Heart Day remembers special North Warren Regional High School teacher](#) 2:10PM
- [Obituaries: George A. Bush of Belvidere, former Pennsylvania Railroad trackman](#) 1:10PM

More: [Warren Reporter »](#)

Most Active Users

[What's this?](#)

Users We Love



[Welcome to NJ.com, Jack](#)

Video from Madison is new user's first contribution

[More Users We Love](#)

From Our Advertisers

- [Big and Beautiful Lingerie for all your hard to find sizes.](#)
- [Carrier Clinic... 100 Years of Hope, Help and Healing](#)
- [Cure pain - Restore function - Advanced Minimally Invasive Surgery](#)

[Advertise With Us »](#)

Popular Tags [What's this?](#)

allamuchy alpha belvidere
 blairstown bloomsbury franklin-
 warren-county frelinghuysen greenwich-
 warren-county **hackettstown**
 hardwick harmony hope independence
 knowlton liberty lopatcong mansfield-
 warren-county newton oxford
 phillipsburg pohatcong W
 washington-borough-warren-
 county washington-township-
 warren-county white

[Advance Internet](#)

[NJ.com](#)

Site Search

Search Local Business Listings

Go

[Site Map](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Contact](#)
[Make us your home page](#)

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Weather](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Living](#) | [Interact](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Place an Ad](#)

- [Your Photos](#)
- [Your Videos](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Forums](#)
- [NJ Shore](#)
- [NJ Weddings](#)

- [Post a Job](#)
- [Post a Free Classified Ad](#)
- [Sell Your Car](#)
- [Sell/Rent Your Home](#)
- [Apartments & Rentals](#)
- [Claim Your Business Listing for Free](#)

- [Business](#)
- [High School Sports](#)
- [NJ Lottery](#)
- [New Jersey Politics](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Pets](#)

- [RSS](#) [Subscribe to our content \(RSS\)](#)
- [Alerts](#) [Sign up for news alerts](#)
- [Twitter](#) [NJ.com's Twitter feed](#)
- [Podcasts](#) [Get Live vodcast](#)
- [Mobile](#) [View NJ.com mobile site](#)
- [Mobile](#) [View mobile product offerings](#)

[Subscribe](#) Special home delivery offers! [The Star-Ledger](#) | [The Times, Trenton](#) | [The Jersey Journal](#) | [Gloucester Co. Times](#)
[The News of Cumberland County](#) | [Today's Sunbeam](#)

© 2009 New Jersey On-Line LLC. All Rights Reserved ([About Us](#)). Use of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#). Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).
[Community Rules](#) apply to all content you upload or otherwise submit to this site. [Contact interactivity management](#).