

EAST VALLEY DINING

Venezia's Pizzeria to expand in east Mesa

An East Valley pizza concept is about to make many of its loyal customers happy.

East Mesa residents who've been driving to Chandler or Tempe to eat at Venezia's Pizzeria soon can hang out closer to home. In mid-April, Venezia's will open at 2721 S. Ellsworth Road, Suite 107, Mesa. The site is at Ellsworth and Guadalupe roads and is the farthest east location for Venezia's, which also is at Pecos and McQueen roads in Chandler and Mill and Southern avenues in Tempe.

Venezia's owner Domenick Montanile said he's glad to open closer to many of his diners, some of whom eat at his restaurants three or four times a week. The new location will be 1,650 square feet and will seat 45 to 50 people. Montanile hopes to add patio seating shortly after the restaurant opens.

The first Venezia's opened in Tempe in 1998, and the Chandler location debuted almost two years ago. It is a family-run business. Montanile's wife and parents also work at Venezia's.

Montanile got into the restaurant business after watching his mom and dad work in the industry for 25 years. He said he has learned from them, especially about the importance of making things yourself. Venezia's cooks



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make all of the restaurant's meatballs, salad dressings, pizza sauce and marinara

sauce. Montanile said the result is a superior product, something he knows is important to his mom and dad, who are originally from Italy.

"My parents taught me a lot of things, and my job is to not screw it up," he said, and laughed.

Venezia's offers New York-style pizzas, calzones, pastas, sandwiches, salads, wings and desserts. Montanile said one thing that sets his restaurant apart is its 24-inch pizza, which serves six to seven people. A 24-inch cheese pizza costs \$18.99, and toppings are \$2 each.

Pizza toppings include homemade meatballs, pepperoni, anchovies, feta cheese and green chiles. In addition to build-your-own pizzas, the restaurant also offers specialty pizzas, which range in price from \$10 to \$20.50. Specialty pizzas include the vegetarian, which comes with mushrooms, green peppers, mushrooms, black olives, tomatoes and green chiles, and the T-Rex, with pepperoni, Italian sausage, Canadian ba-

con and ground beef.

Other menu items include lasagna for \$7.50, a chef salad for \$5.99, a Philly cheese steak for \$6.29, a turkey sub for \$5.59 and tiramisu for \$3.75.

Venezia's is at 1080 E. Pecos Road, Suite 23, Chandler, and 33 E. Southern Ave., Tempe. Hours are 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Hours will be the same at the Mesa location. Details: www.venezias.com.

Wine tasting

House of Tricks has started its spring wine-tasting series.

Each Tuesday evening, tasting for \$20 a person include several wines, as well as fruit and cheese. Upcoming tastings are Stars of the Southern Hemisphere, April 5; South African Wines, April 19; The Heart of Tuscany, May 10, and Highlights of California, June 7. Each is from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

To R.S.V.P., call (480) 968-1114. House of Tricks is at 114 E. Seventh St., Tempe. Details: www.houseoftricks.com.

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