

## **Columbia Restaurant Opens Private Dining Facility**

*By Asbill Public Relations*

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Columbia, S.C. – One of Columbia's most popular Italian restaurants has opened a private dining facility with the look and feel of an upscale New York City special event location that features hardwood floors, a covered outdoor balcony, exposed brick interior, unique art and an elegant and upscale serving kitchen.

Ristorante Divino opened "The Loft at Divino's" on the second floor of its restaurant at 803 Gervais Street in the Congaree Vista. The Loft has a separate front entrance with a stairwell to the second floor dining room, and a back entrance with stairs leading up to the cozy, lighted outdoor patio. The space can seat up to 32 for dinner and up to 50 for a buffet reception.

"This space is perfect for rehearsal dinners, anniversary parties, holiday gatherings, corporate functions or any other type of intimate special event," said Chef and Owner Fulvio Valsecchi. "We look forward to serving Columbia with the restaurant's excellent food served in a casually elegant atmosphere with the most dedicated and well-trained wait staff in town. The Loft is a truly great space."

This dining room can be set for one large rectangular table or smaller tables of four, six or eight. The dark leather chairs, adjustable lighting and built-in sound system offer guests the opportunity to set the mood for each event.

The adjacent kitchen, with granite countertops, marble floors, unique overhead lighting and high-end stainless steel appliances, can either remain open to guests, or can be closed using a dark screen. "For some events, they like to keep everything open and use the bar in the kitchen to serve drinks," said Chef Fulvio.

Guests can choose from a 3 or 4-course custom menu offering Ristorante Divino's signature Northern Italian cuisine featuring fresh and locally grown ingredients, or Chef Fulvio can create a personal menu for the occasion.

The Loft is currently accepting bookings by calling 803-799-4550. More information and photos can also be found on the restaurant's website, [www.ristorantedivino.com](http://www.ristorantedivino.com). Valet parking is available.

"Whether our guests select seafood, duck, beef or our homemade pasta entrees, we guarantee the most authentic and delicious Northern Italian cuisine experience," Chef Fulvio says. "We are committed to providing fabulous food with personal attention to help create memorable dinner parties for Columbia."

Ristorante Divino, a family-run establishment, is owned and operated by Chef Fulvio Valsecchi, who has been delighting South Carolina patrons with authentic Northern Italian cuisine for more than 37 years. Born and raised in Italy's beautiful Lake Como region, Chef Fulvio opened his first restaurant in 1976 in Hilton Head. Later, after much success, he relocated his family to Columbia where he opened Ristorante Divino, which has served Columbia at 803 Gervais Street in the historic Congaree Vista for the past 12 years. Ristorante Divino has received the prestigious Wine Spectator Award from 2002 to 2009 and has been featured in Southern Living magazine.

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About Ristorante Divino: Ristorante Divino, a family-run establishment, is owned and operated by Chef Fulvio Valsecchi, who has been delighting South Carolina patrons with authentic Northern Italian cuisine for more than 37 years. Born and raised in Italy's beautiful Lake Como region, Chef Fulvio opened his first restaurant in 1976 in Hilton Head. Later, after much success, he relocated his family to Columbia where he opened Ristorante Divino, which has served Columbia at 803 Gervais Street in the historic Congaree Vista for the past 12 years. Ristorante Divino has received the prestigious Wine Spectator Award from 2002 to 2009 and has been featured in Southern Living magazine.

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