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Chef Alessandro Manzini putting the finishing touches on a dish.

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Restaurant Trattoria del Doge opens in Coral Gables

Coral Gables' newest Italian restaurant has opened in the burgeoning North Ponce district at 804 Ponce de Leon Blvd. Trattoria del Doge features a classic menu of Italian favorites derived from exceptional ingredients. The wine list is unique and the classical but cozy interior seats 51 patrons. A small bar is convenient for appetizers and pre-dinner gatherings.

"I found an excellent Italian chef and a promising Coral Gables location," said Flaura Dubois, the restaurant's owner. "Trattoria del Doge has been my passionate project for a long time, and now with the support of my Italian friend, Attilio Nordio, we're pleased to share its concept with people who search for great food and wine in comfortable surroundings."

In addition to antipasto items, salads and soups, the menu includes fresh pastas and risotto selections, a mix of choice meats and seafood and fresh vegetarian dishes. The wait staff is from different parts of Italy, and the chef brings years of experience.

Chef Alessandro Manzini, recently with Café Milano on Miami Beach, has developed a broad menu sure to satisfy, with an emphasis on fresh, quality ingredients. The celebrated chef was formally trained in Parma, London, and Paris. His recipes have circled the globe as he gained experience in the Dominican Republic, Nigeria, Dubai, Germany and Spain.

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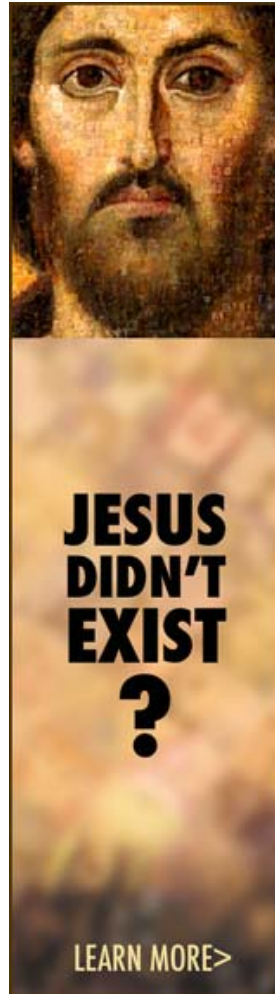
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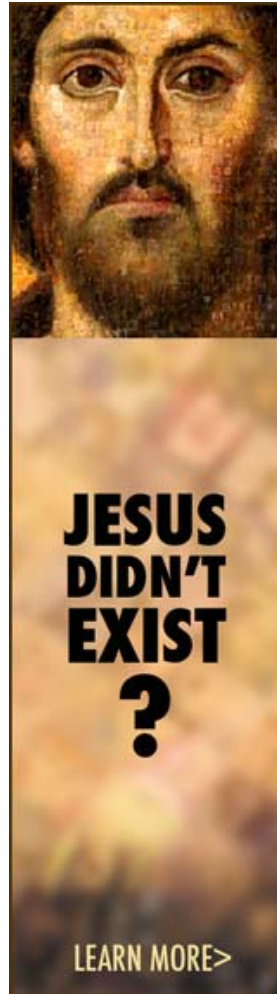
His experience in several coastal cities inspires him to showcase Florida's exceptional access to fresh fish. In addition to a variety of snapper, he has developed special recipes for pompano, barramundi and swordfish. Chef Alessandro also is renowned for his risotto, and hand made pasta.

"We are eager to develop a series of small, carefully selected art exhibitions that use the restaurant to launch or celebrate artists in an atmosphere of fine food," said Dubois. "On special nights, we plan to feature chamber music adapted for cozy, intimate fine dining." She hopes to attract business associates for lunch, as well as dinner guests who enjoy lingering in an artistic, unpretentious atmosphere.

Dubois has a Bachelor's degree in Business

Administration from Florida International University and used her focus on International Business and Finance to jumpstart a banking career in South Florida. When friends supported, then urged, following her dream of owning a restaurant, she decided to follow her passion. She named the restaurant after the title given to elected chief magistrates in Italy's crowned republics, especially those of Venice.

Trattoria del Doge is open Monday through Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Friday 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. and opens for dinner on Saturdays from 4 p.m. to midnight. For more information or to make a reservation, call (305) 567-3031.



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