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September 2, 2008

A FAMILY AFFAIR

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MILLSTONE: For nearly two decades, western Monmouth County, New Jersey has enjoyed the scent of fine Italian cooking emanating from what looks to be an “old farm house” perched upon Highway 33. That “farmhouse,” located at 530 Highway 33 on the border of Manalapan and Millstone, is in fact Luchento’s Ristorante. The Luchento family, and I mean the entire family; father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, sons and daughter have worked endless hours to present some of the finest Italian food in the area to its loyal and quite satisfied clientele.

According to *Richard R. Santore of, Bielat Santore & Company, Allenhurst, New Jersey*, the broker for the sale, “the Luchento’s have established an institution here, but have decided to retire, and try to enjoy some time as a family away from the restaurant.” Brothers Anthony and Joseph Vitella have purchased the restaurant and plan to continue the tradition of serving fine Italian cuisine. “The Vitellas have been in the restaurant business for twenty-five years and have owned and operated several restaurants in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. They are seasoned operators,” continues *Santore*.

The new owners will retain the name “Luchento’s,” and in the near future will commence with renovations to the interior of the restaurant to update and modernize the decor. One of the major changes made will be to add a state-of-the-art point of sale system to manage customer orders, receipts, inventory, cash flow and more. Although Italian food will still dominate the menu, a sampling of traditional American dishes will slowly be introduced. “We intend to maintain the concept, the staff, the menu, the quality of the food and the reputation the Luchento family has established here in Millstone. We have learned in taking over restaurants in the past that, if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it,” state the new owners.

Luchento’s will be open Tuesday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; Saturday, 3:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. and Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 pm.