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JOE & MAGGIE – PETER & DENNIS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LONG BRANCH: After nearly 15 years of service to its loyal customer base, Joe & Maggie's Bistro, located at 591 Broadway, Long Branch, Monmouth County, New Jersey has been sold, as reported by *Richard R. Santore of Bielat Santore & Company, Allenhurst, New Jersey*, the broker for the sale.

Joe & Maggie's Bistro, a restaurant with a reputation for culinary excellence that extends beyond the borders of New Jersey, will continue to offer its innovative international cuisine served in a sophisticated, unpretentious atmosphere, under the auspicious of its new proprietors, Chef Peter Fischbach and General Manager Dennis Tafuri. Messrs. Fischbach and Tafuri were the former Executive Chef and General Manager of the Metropolitan Café in Freehold, New Jersey.

"When Joe and Maggie came to us and asked us to sell their restaurant, I knew that it was not going to be an easy task," states *Santore*. The culinary talents of Chef/Owner, Joe Romanowski have been applauded by the likes of Gourmet Magazine, Zagat Survey, New Jersey Monthly, The Asbury Park Press and The New York Times, just to name a few. Maggie Lubcke, the Maggie in Joe & Maggie's Bistro, was organized, responsible and savvy in her role as co-owner and manager of the thriving Long Branch restaurant. "In order to sell the restaurant and have any keeping of maintaining the reputation Joe and Maggie had developed, our firm would have to seek out a similar tandem to purchase the restaurant," continues *Santore*. "Fortunately, we were able to find Peter Fischbach and Dennis Tafuri."

Fischbach and Tafuri certainly fit the bill. Chef Fischbach is a highly trained chef whose food creations and presentations have helped make the Metropolitan Café the sought after eatery in Freehold. Dennis Tafuri is a skilled front-of-the house manager, who is no newcomer to the restaurant business. Tafuri has recently acquired his Sommelier credentials as an expert in wines.

"We are not looking to change anything at the restaurant. Joe and Maggie have done a marvelous job and have built a tremendous following. We are simply looking to learn from them during our transition period, and hopefully take the restaurant to its next level," add the new owners.