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LONG BRANCH TO GET TAVOLO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LONG BRANCH: The former Il Cortile Restaurant located at 45 Atlantic Avenue, Long Branch, New Jersey, has been sold according to **Richard R. Santore of Bielat Santore and Company, Allenhurst, New Jersey**, the broker for the sale. The high-end, tableside Italian restaurant, which had opened to great fanfare, closed in October 2002. “The décor and food at Il Cortile were fantastic, but the business met rough waters when the economy began its decline, and it never recovered,” continues **Santore**. “Tavolo brings a more informal, fun-filled, lesser ticket menu to the area. There is a void in this marketplace for a restaurant like this.”

The creator of Tavolo is Robert Rallo, son of the late Victor Rallo, creator of Basil T’s Restaurant in Red Bank, New Jersey. Together with his brother Victor Jr., the Rallo brothers grew up in the business and over the years under the tutelage of their father, have become savvy professionals. Robert has teamed up with two local investor/partners, and is ready to unveil his new concept for the summer of 2003.

The new owners will renovate the premises to create a more casual, comfortable, exciting environment. “Our main goal is to move the bar upstairs where all the action is,” says Rallo. “We want people to hang-out, before and after they have dinner. Hopefully bringing all of the excitement to one place will make our customers feel like they are part of the show, instead of isolated in some corner booth or dim-lit table. The downstairs is too small to have a bustling bar. We are going to utilize the first floor for overflow dining and private parties.”

The menu will offer casual Italian food, featuring gourmet pizzas, hand-rolled panini sandwiches, homemade pastas and sauces, oversized salads and a short list of specials. “If the food is anything like Basil’s, which I anticipate it will be, Rallo will have a hit in Long Branch,” adds Santore.

The restaurant will undergo renovations, which are anticipated to take 4-6 weeks. “We would like to be open in mid-June,” states Rallo, “but if we open for the beginning of July, we will be more than happy. We know we will open to the summertime rush, but we will be ready.” Once open, Tavolo will serve lunch and dinner, seven days a week.