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Contact:

Kate McAndrews
kmcandrews@greencrest.com
614-885-7921

BRAVO! Cucina Italiana introducing private label house wines from Italy, paired with lighter summer Italian specialties

COLUMBUS, Ohio—BRAVO! Cucina Italiana, a **BRAVO|BRIO Restaurant Group** concept, is toasting the onset of summer by introducing Tavolo Matto wines, new private label wines from Veneto, Italy, and pairing them with refreshing new summer salads, pan-seared fish, pizza with roasted summer vegetables and authentic Italian specialty sandwiches— all perfect for lighter summertime dining. “Tavolo Matto”, Italian for “crazy table”, are specially crafted wines exclusively for BRAVO! by Sartori di Verona, to accompany BRAVO’s authentic food, Roman Ruins décor and lively atmosphere.

The Tavolo Matto Pinot Grigio, with it’s exotic fruit bouquet and fresh melon and pear flavors, is the perfect companion for BRAVO!’s summer salads; the Chilled Shrimp and Spicy Spinach Salad with arugula, cucumbers, tomatoes, carrots, jicama, red peppers and cilantro, in a spicy citrus vinaigrette with Feta and crispy pasta strips or the Arugula Salad with roasted Roma tomatoes, Gorgonzola, fresh basil, toasted pine nuts and balsamic vinaigrette.

The Tavolo Matto Chardonnay’s crisp apple flavors and creamy style are just the right complements to BRAVO’s new dinner selections of Mahi Mahi Rustica, a pan-seared fish on a bed of roasted carrots, fennel and red onions, escarole and tomatoes in a delicate broth garnished with crispy shoestring potatoes and the fresh Antipasta Chopped Salad with traditional Italian cured meats, cheeses, olives and pickled vegetables, tossed with red onions, garbanzo beans, escarole and red wine vinaigrette.

The Tavolo Matto Rosso, a medium-bodied red wine with hints of red fruits and baking spices, is paired perfectly with the Verduta Pizza, perfect for passing around the table, made with roasted asparagus, portobellos, tomatoes, red onions with Fontina and Boursin cheeses and finished with fresh basil. Two light pasta dishes to indulge in include Rigatoni Melanzana with roasted eggplant, fresh tomato sauce and Mozzarella topped with fresh basil and Parmigiano-Reggiano or the Spaghettoni Carbonara made the true Italian way and tossed with Parmigiano-Reggiano, pancetta, asparagus, egg yolk and black pepper.

BRAVO! lunch guests also have authentic Italian options sure to make the afternoon special. Tuscan Tomato Flatbread is baked with Mozzarella and Parmesan cheeses, and

is topped with tomato slices, fresh basil and field greens. The Tuscan Grilled Chicken Sandwich is served on a focaccia roll with green onion mayonnaise and spicy Tuscan slaw and served with Arugula Salad of roasted Roma tomatoes, Gorgonzola, Mediterranean grain, lemon and extra virgin olive oil. Lunch guests get double-treated with the Margherita Panini, that combines brioche bread layered with roasted Roma tomatoes, pesto, fresh Mozzarella and Provolone cheeses or the authentically Italian Antipasti Chopped Salad— both dishes served with BRAVO's favorite soup of the day.

BRAVO! guests are reminded to celebrate weekdays this summer during BRAVO! happy hour and Martini Night (days and times vary by location). On Martini night, guests receive two dollars off on all martinis, including the Flirtini, BRAVO's most popular martini made with Absolut Raspberri, Citronge, cranberry and pineapple juice with Prosecco. BRAVO! terraces, wonderful settings for all summertime dining, are also now open, weather permitting.

BRAVO! Cucina Italiana is a casual, white-tablecloth restaurant offering classic Italian food amongst the shadows of Roman ruins. The subtitle "Cucina Italiana" means Italian kitchen, in which all cooking is done in full view of the guest, creating the energy of a live theater. BRAVO's popular entrees include grilled steaks, chops, and made-to-order pastas and house specialties, similar to an authentic 'ristorante' in Italy. BRAVO! is part of Columbus-based BRAVOIBRIO Restaurant Group. Founded in 1992, BRAVOIBRIO Restaurant Group currently operates more than 80 restaurants including BRAVO! Cucina Italiana, BRIO Tuscan Grille and Bon Vie Bistro. Please visit the Web site, BravoItalian.com for a list of locations, or to follow the restaurant on twitter or facebook.

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