

# South Philly Review

## Hot News

Concetta Varallo and her husband John are no strangers to success. For the past 15 years, their restaurant, Ristorante Pesto, 1915 S. Broad St., has been a South Philly staple for high quality, fine Italian food. Before that, they owned a restaurant called Io E Tu at 9th and Dickinson, which was also a neighborhood favorite.

“We owe it all to the customers,” said Concetta. “A lot of family members and friends have been with us for throughout the 15 years.”

Ristorante Pesto, the Readers’ Choice winner for South Philly Restaurant, is arguably South Philly’s closest thing you’ll find to the kind of authentic Italian food you’d find in Italy. That’s because John Varallo was trained in the culinary arts in Naples, Italy. One of the couple’s daughters, Maria, is also a chef at the restaurant. They have two other daughters as well: Gianna, who works as a bartender at Pesto and Christina, one of the restaurant’s bussers.



The restaurant is located right in the heart of South Philly.

“We loved the area. It was close to all the sporting the events and theater of the arts,” Concetta said.

At Pesto, customers will experience a lot of things that make their dining experience unique. For instance, all the food—including the pasta—is homemade, customers get free appetizers and the serving sizes are generous.

“We always give out containers because nobody seems to finish everything,” said Concetta.

The restaurant has plenty of options to choose from as well. Perhaps too many, which is never a bad problem to have.

“We have a five-page menu and 20 specials,” boasted Concetta.

One of the most sought after dishes at Pesto is the cavatelli pasta, which features lobster, shrimp and crab meat in a rose sauce. Rachael Ray bestowed the title of “best pasta dish” upon it during an episode of her TV show.

Because the restaurant is №1 (out of 3,629) on TripAdvisor’s best restaurants in Philadelphia, the Varallos have welcomed in people from all over the world, including Romania, Australia and Kenya.

Rounding out the top three in the list of South Philly’s best restaurants is Villa Di Roma, 936 S. 9th St., which came in second, and Scannicchio’s, 2500 S. Broad St., which came in third.