

Homestyle Away from Home



After long hours in meetings, sending e-mails, and dealing with phone calls, most people relish the half hour or hour away from work during lunch. Many people know that Raritan Center has an ideal location with many restaurants in the area. However, a great place with a variety of food choices and friendly staff is right here in the center. If you haven't had the chance to visit Deserio's Pizzeria and Trattoria, you're missing out on delicious pizza, pasta, salads, cheesecake and so much more!

Only a stone's throw away, the 18/10 group walked over to Deserio's on a beautiful Monday. We've all been to Deserio's many times, but this time we were going to have to look at everything through a critic's lens. When you walk into the restaurant, you'll notice that the place is usually full of people! There are different stations with an eclectic assortment of food choices so you're sure to find something you're in the mood for. There are paninis, sandwiches, pizza, homestyle entrees, and fresh salads. On this particular day, the homestyle entrees included sausage and peppers and chicken parm.

But swimsuit season is coming up. That means the group has to hold off on the pizza and paninis. Everyone in the group individually had already decided they'd be

trying the salad bar! Annie, our connoisseur of salads, loves the salad bar. You can make your own salad, and you have tons of options. Annie's advice: always put sundried tomatoes on your salad! Instant deliciousness. She had a grilled vegetable salad with grilled chicken, and obviously sundried tomatoes. I would personally rather someone decide on my toppings for me. My favorite salad is the Chicken Milanese. Fried chicken cutlet, spring mix, roasted red peppers, mozzarella. You can't go wrong! Nicolle decided on the Chicken Ranchero which has fried chicken cutlet, spring mix, tomatoes, parmesan cheese and bacon with ranch and hot sauce dressing. Agatha had the same but with grilled chicken. If you have a sweet tooth, Deserio's also offers fresh-made desserts like cheesecake and tiramisu.

Everyone enjoyed their salads in Deserio's eat-in area. This is not the kind of restaurant you'd expect in a business park. Deserio's has been beautifully architected with high ceilings, frosted glass windows, and granite countertops. Whether you're enjoying your lunch with some friends or need a place for a lunch business meeting, Deserio's provides a great location for both.

Aside from the food and location, one of the best things about Deserio's is the people! You'll always find a friendly face to help you. John, his nephew Joe, and Anna have been at Raritan Center for over a decade. Their mission is to provide everyone in the park fresh, fast, and delicious food. Deserio's has a sophisticated look while holding onto a family-style environment.

So grab your favorite coworkers and head over to Deserio's the next time you're looking for a great place to lunch and laugh!

"When Nona is too far away and time is not abundant, Deserio's satisfies both shortages well!"

- Antoinette Wehbe