

# Palisadian-Post

Serving the Community Since 1928

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2012 ♦ PACIFIC PALISADES, CALIFORNIA



## P O S T T A S T E

### Grace Hiney

#### ROSTI TUSCAN KITCHEN

23663 Calabasas Rd.

Calabasas

(818) 591-2211

Santa Monica

931 Montana Ave.

(310) 393-3236

Encino

16350 Ventura Blvd.

(818) 995-7179

**R**osti is a modern Italian kitchen offering good food with many healthy options. There are gluten-free, vegan and kosher menus in addition to traditional Tuscan cooking.

The casual Calabasas restaurant is the newest addition to the Rosti family of Tuscan Kitchens. Its attractive Tuscan pottery, bright red chairs, simple wooden tables, open kitchen and wine bar present a perfect setting for an Italian meal.

Pasta fagioli, a traditional white-bean and potato soup, was filled with homemade flavor and was served very hot (always a winner in my book). The sliced prosciutto salad was topped with aromatic arugula, fresh figs and crumbles of Gorgonzola in a light honey-balsamic dressing.

Creamy seafood risotto was filled with shrimp, clams and calamari in a fine red sauce.

Most interesting was Rosti's famous brick-pressed chicken marinated in a blend of fresh Tuscan herbs and then grilled under an Italian mattone brick.



*The restaurant in Calabasas is the latest addition to the Rosti family of Tuscan Kitchens.*

Photo: Courtesy Rosti

This is an old style of Tuscan cooking, where a large stone presses the chicken, which keeps the flavor in the meat while ensuring that the chicken is still moist and succulent. A whole chicken is \$19.99, a half-chicken is \$13.75 and both are served with two side dishes or a house salad.

Entrées include fresh grilled or poached salmon, chicken Marsala or Parmigiano, grilled eggplant Parmigiano and a 12-oz. sirloin filet marinated in fresh Tuscan herbs.

Salmon tops the price list at \$18.99, while most entrees are \$17 or under. Pastas vary from \$11 to \$16.25 for spaghetti with seafood. My seafood risotto topped this list at \$17.25. Pastas and pizzas may be ordered gluten-free.

Pizzas are the thin-crust Toscana

style, and come in the 12" or 16" sizes. Diners may build their own pizza or order one of the 17 pizzas listed. There are also several calzones.

At Rosti, everything is handmade, with many ingredients coming from local farms.

A large homemade tiramisu was light, luscious and more than enough to share. It went well with the Italian coffee. Desserts are \$6.75, while fresh-baked cookies are \$1.

The bambini menu, for children under 12, is \$6.75.

For good food in a relaxing setting, I would say that proprietor Kevin Goldfein has done a fine job at all three locations. As a note, guests may bring their own beer and wine to the Montana location.