

# The New York Times

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## Fresh Food and Vintage Movies

By **DIANE CARDWELL**

Monday nights can feel slow in New York, as many spots take a day of rest after the busy weekend. But at *La Gazzetta*, the lively trattoria on the ground floor of Villa Pacri in the meatpacking district on Gansevoort Street at Ninth Avenue, it is a different story. On Mondays, it draws a crowd of regulars from the neighborhood, couples on first dates and families, for Cinema Italiano, its weekly screenings of classics like “To Kill a Mockingbird” and “The Godfather” — a hipper dinner theater for the downtown set — and for a menu offering Italian snacks, pastas and entrees. Last week, as the original “Casino Royale” with Peter Sellers and David Niven played in the background, a couple from London on their way to Buffalo and Toronto mixed business and pleasure.

**IN THE SEATS** Nick Russell, 49, and his fiancée, Tracy Mann, 43, who is also his personal assistant in his business, IPW, which develops sports arenas.

**ON THE PLATES** Pizza Bianca with roasted tomatoes and buffalo mozzarella (\$10), grilled octopus with potatoes and olives (\$16), gnocchi with basil pesto and cherry tomatoes (\$16) and roasted chicken with chilies, fingerling potatoes and fennel (\$16).

**THE WINE:** A quartino — or small carafe — of Maso Michei Pinot Nero (\$17).

**WHY THEY CAME** Mr. Russell was to judge the Skate Canada figure-skating competition in Ontario, running through this weekend. They were visiting New York City and Niagara Falls beforehand.

**WHAT THEY TALKED ABOUT** All they had seen in New York, including the Statue of Liberty, ground zero and **Radio City Music Hall**, which was of particular interest because Mr. Russell plans to develop arenas where all the seats face front. Overseas, he said, venues tend to be round or horseshoe-shape, mimicking American sports stadiums designed for basketball and ice hockey even though most of the money is in concerts. “We just morphed the American model,” he said, adding with a laugh: “I’m sure there’s a very heavy point in there about the rest of the world morphing America regardless of whether it makes any sense or not.” Both were impressed with Radio City’s design. “It sounds ridiculous, but **you can tell by the quality of the toilets**,” he said. “I’m sure the professionals would tell you it should be the acoustic qualities, **but you know you’re in someplace special when the toilets are that good.**”