

# RICH AROMAS

## Rules

### Piola Brings True Italian Cuisine to Houston

**H**ave you ever tasted authentic Italian cuisine? I'm not talking about your favorite local fast food joint that can deliver in 15 minutes. I'm referring to rich tomato sauces, homemade pastas and the freshest ingredients you can find. Well, look no further. Houston welcomes the international Italian franchise, Piola.

If you've traveled around the U.S. or even abroad, it's a possibility that you've ran into a Piola. With locations in Atlanta, Miami, New York and even Buenos Aires, Piola offers the most genuine yet memorable Italian food around.

The new Houston franchise is ran by Italian brothers Bruno and Michele Cencini. On a trip to Miami in 2009, the brothers discovered a Piola. And after being blown away by the food, the brothers knew they had to share their new find with Houston.

"We felt that there was a void for true Italian food in Houston," Bruno said. "There are a lot of great American/Italian restaurants here, but besides Dolce Vita, there's a need for true Italian restaurants."

And true it is. While visiting Piola, the menu offers a wide selection of pastas, salads and other traditional Italian eats. But it's the pizza that Piola is most known for.

Now, we're not talking about your double stuffed crust pizza with 12 toppings straight from a can. Piola takes us back to the origin of the pizza. Their oven-baked flatbread pizzas are hand made with specialty recipes, modern shapes and great flavors.

Some of their signature pizzas include items such as the Rio de Janeiro. It's made with oven baked chicken breast, catupiry cheese and a little parsley. Then there's the Calzone. It's made with ham and fresh mushrooms in the traditional folded shape. And finally, there's the Buenos Aires. A pizza made with mozzarella cheese, thinly sliced onions and oregano. But the twist about the Buenos Aires is that there's no tomato sauce.

"We just don't offer one kind of pizza," Bruno said. "We offer it all from vegetarian to different meats. We have a variety for everyone."

So, if you're in the mood for a little Italian, Piola is the place to visit. With their competitive prices, cool ambiance and Midtown location, a great meal is just a short drive away.

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