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Nothing like a fine wine

Hundreds of wine selections offered at Wood & Wine restaurant

By Kelsey Leyva

AVON

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Enjoying a wine that is picked to perfectly accompany your meal is just one of the amenities guests can take advantage of when dining at Wood & Wine, 38790 Chester Road in Avon.

For nearly six years, the restaurant has been serving up wood-fired pizzas, international and domestic wines, artisan cheeses and breads and many other delicious dishes to residents in Lorain County and surrounding communities, according to Jim Andrews, co-owner of the business. Andrews, of Amherst, partnered with his friend, Ron Miller, of Rocky River, and the two have been in business together since November 2010.

Andrews, who is also the owner of Jackalope Lakeside, 301 Lakeside Ave. in Lorain, said back before the economy took a downturn around 2008 and 2009, he had the idea to develop a smaller wine bar that served wood-fired pizzas and tapas, or appetizers. He said it wasn't until after purchasing the property on Chester Road is when he expanded his concept.

This place being 560,000 square feet, like 160 seats, we really couldn't just do pizzas because if everybody's eating pizzas



Co-owner Jim Andrews, of Amherst, has operated Wood & Wine, located at 38790 Chester Road, in Avon, with his partner Ron Miller of Rocky River, since 2010. The pair will celebrate the business's sixth anniversary this November.

then that oven is going to be backed up," he said. "We In addition to the wo

had to have variety because fired pizzas, which come offers pasta dishes, wood- zas served at the restau-

in American or Neapolitan fired wings, steaks and sal- rant are homemade and are In addition to the wood- style, Wood & Wine also ads. Andrews said the piz- slightly healthier than the WINE » PAGE 3



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AVON Fire up the oven

Fresh pizza mandatory at In Forno Pizza

By Kaylee Remington

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It's certainly not easy being a pizza chef and it's even more difficult when you're a wood-fired oven pizza chef who only uses fresh, local ingredients to satisfy customers.

Pizzaiolo George Goodman and his family moved to Cleveland in 2009 after leaving clients in New York City. He worked 12 years in kitchens, not as a chef, but a remodeling contractor. After that, he wanted a change.

Goodman had built a wood-fired oven, but because it was too heavy, it ended up on a trailer. After a year of entertaining family and friends, calls started to come in requesting that he cater parties and events.

One year ago, Inforno Neopolitan Pizza Studio, located at 35840 Chester Road in Avon, came to fruition, but he's been making pizzas for six years.

Goodman said his goal is to provide high-quality pizza.

He and his wife, Elizabeth, who are of Hungarian descent, make neapolitan pizza, according to rules that were proposed by the Associacione Vera Pizza Napolitana. The Goodmans use fresh ingredients from local farmers and growers.

They also make their dough from Italian 00 flour and use the best cheese (Grande) in the country, the Goodmans said.

The pizza is cooked at 850 degrees and is given to patrons in 90 seconds. George Goodman believes that the pizza should be enjoyed right when it comes out of the oven which is why they do not deliver.

Although the size of the restaurant is not that large, it packs a punch with flavor.

"It's our design," Eliza-beth Goodman. "We wanted something for all ages like the older generation and the kids so we wanted to mix it



Pizzaiolo George Goodman and his family came to Northeast Ohio, from New York, in 2009. In 2015, Goodman opened In Forno Neopolitan Pizza Studio, 35840 Chester Road, Avon.



In Forno Neopolitan Pizza Studio's Margherita pizza includes homemade tomato sauce, basil, fresh mozzarella and olive oi



up. Everything is fresh and hip."

"In Forno" means wood his pepperoni pizza. fired oven, which would explain the name of the restaurant

George Goodman said man said. he's never been in the pizza business. His remodeling it helped him put together his own design on what he wanted for his business.

"My past ended here and my future started here," he said. "Pizza kind of happened accidentally."

One of the most popular pizzas that people order is up about themselves. the Margherita pizza, but, he indicated Americans like

"We have a nice variety

so you can find anything for yourself," George Good-

One of the features at the pizza studio is that everyone contractor past is over, but can come up to the counter and watch their pizza being made in the wood fired oven

> And while people are sitting and watching their pizza being made, Elizabeth Goodman said people will sit at the counter and open

> "They're so comfortable sharing their stories with

us," she said. "It's really interesting."

In the kitchen, every thing is fresh, George Goodman said. No one will find anything that is canned, he said, while he stirred a bucket of tomato sauce with oregano.

We do everything, we only use Italian flour and then we make the dough, making pizzas the tomato sauce and we want the best cheese as possible," George Good-man said. "We keep it simple, it's very important to typically made with tomakeep it simple."

The neapolitan pizza is

One vear ago, Inforno **Neopolitan Pizza** Studio. located at 35840 Chester Road in Avon, came to fruition, but he's been for six vears.

toes and mozzarella cheese. It can be made with ingre-



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In Forno Neopolitan Pizza Studio's mixed greens salad includes an assortment of fresh leaf greens, tomatoes, onions, olive oil, honey balsamic vinaigrette and crumbled blue cheese.

dients such as San Marzano hand or a low-speed mixer. tomatoes that grown on the volcanic plains to the south of Mount Vesuvius and mozzarella di bufala Campana, made with milk from water buffalo raised in the marshlands of Campania and Lazio in a semi-wild state.

needs to be kneaded by

After the rising process, the dough must be formed by hand without any help from a rolling pin or other machine.

In Forno Pizza is open from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Satur-The dough for the pizza days and from noon to 8 p.m. on Sundays.



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Wine

FROM PAGE 1

pizza you can get at most pizza chains.

"We don't put any oil into our dough," he said. "There is no sugar put into it. We have an Italian flour, water, active yeast and sea salt."

Andrews said that an average piece of pizza with pepperonis is about 660 calories, but a slice of Wood & Wine pizza is closer to 180-200 calories. He explained that sugar and oil are part of the browning process and is why they're included in most dough recipes.

The wood-fired oven operates at 850 to 900 degrees Fahrenheit, which allows for a pizza to be cooked in about three minutes. Andrews said the intense heat allows for the pizzas to properly brown.

Although pizza is a popular item at Wood & Wine, Andrews said people come back time and time again for the smoked mac and Gouda with chicken and asparagus.

The dish was created by John Tleha, head chef at the restaurant.

it's that good," Andrews said. "To me it's one of the best dishes my chef has ever made."

Wood & Wine also offers an extensive wine list that ings. Andrews said isn't available at any other restaurant in Avon. Patrons can choose from 200 to 300 different wine selections at any given time. Sometimes as many as 500 different wines are available.

list is adjusted about three times a years and features wines from South Africa, Israel and Spain. He said lighter wines are offered in the summer while heartier wines are offered during credits his success to, An- unless you're a vegetarian. the winter months.



Wood & Wine boasts roughly 500 different wines available from its temperature-controlled wine cellar.

"I could eat it every day, week to give food and wine the last 15 to 16 years and ers. Andrews said he has learned a lot from Fink and is also able to help customers with food and wine par- your people," he said.

been to the restaurant before, Andrews recommends from scratch with locally keeping an open mind and venturing out of your comfort zone as far as what wines you're willing to try.

"It is amazing how wine Andrews said the wine and food do pair up really, really well," he said, noting that a full service spirits and beer bar is available day you're still going to dewine enthusiasts.

When asked what he drews said it's all about the rant at least three times a worked with Andrews for stay.

pairing advice to custom- started at the Jackalope before becoming head chef at Wood & Wine.

"You're only as good as

Andrews, who grew up For those who haven't in Lorain, said every dish at the restaurant is made grown ingredients. He believes the future of Wood & Wine looks bright.

"No matter how advanced we become in society, you can't make a pill form of a good glass of wine and at the end of the for customers who aren't sire the side of ribs of an animal," he said.

"That can't be replaced We're still primitive. Food Jim Fink, a certified people who work with him. is not going anywhere.



ERIC BONZAR - THE MORNING JOURNAL sommelier, is at the restau- Tleha, for example, has Food and wine will always Wood & Wine's wood-fired pizzas are offered in both Neapolitan and American style.



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