

ELITE

The Northwest Indiana Magazine of Fine Lifestyles

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Confection Perfection

Candy company thrives
in a yummy-gummi world

Tee Time

Best golf holes of the region

Lucrezia

*Authentic Italian with
Midwestern flair*



Classical Connection: Northwest Indiana Symphony offers mass musical appeal

By Eloise Marie Valadez
Photos by Michael Roberts

Lucrezia Italian Ristorante

*Authentic trattoria cuisine
with Midwestern flair*



If exceptional Italian food and a welcoming atmosphere are what you crave in a dining experience, Lucrezia Italian Ristorante awaits you.

The eatery, in Crown Point's, historic downtown district, is the perfect place to settle in for a pleasant meal with family, friends or a special sweetheart. Blend its charming retro mansion environment with an appetizing menu, attractive bar area and friendly service and the eatery gets a thumbs up on all levels.

Lucrezia was established in November of 2003 by Nada and Michael Karas, who have long had a great love of quality Mediterranean-style food.

"We love Italian food," Nada Karas said, adding they also found the concept of Italian trattorias very attractive.

"If you go to Northern Italy, you'll see a lot of trattorias in old homes," she said.

Many of the trattorias focus on fresh and seasonal produce and tasty, home-style and unpretentious cooking. They wanted that to be the focus of their restaurant and menu as well.

"We were just in love with trattorias and that's really what Lucrezia is," she said.

"We also want to bring excellent food at a value to people," Nada Karas added.

The couple, of Serbian heritage, said they find the Mediterranean menu, with its pure flavors and fresh ingredients, particularly attractive.

Lucrezia Italian Ristorante, housed in the William Barringer Brown Mansion, dating from 1887, is the couple's second restaurant. The first, Lucrezia Café and Catering, also housed

