

LESENDRO RESTAURANT & MARTINI BAR: AN EPICUREAN WONDER IN THE HEART OF YORKVILLE

By Sheila Reesor



IN THE MIDDLE of Lake Skadar, in the Republic of Montenegro, lies the tiny island of Lesendro. Covered with lush vegetation and the ruins of a fortress and abandoned monasteries, the island possesses a unique beauty.

If you aren't able to experience the ancient beauty of this island in person, you might want to visit the wonders of *Lesendro Restaurant & Martini Bar*.

Situated in the core of Yorkville's *Hazelton Lanes*, *Lesendro* welcomes customers into a large courtyard filled with oversized plants and carved stone totem poles that stretch up to the 25-foot ceiling. Comfortable wicker chairs are arranged around large round tables and shaded by cloth umbrellas. Live music adds to the atmosphere, which recalls an elegant Mediterranean café.

Toronto is already on a first-name basis with *Lesendro's* Yugoslavian/Canadian culinary master, Chef Angelo Dulic. For 13 years, he owned two successful restaurants in West Toronto – *Angelo D's* and *Oliva*. At *Lesendro*, Chef Angelo has combined Italian, Mediterranean, and French cuisine to create an eclectic gourmet menu.

Chef Angelo says that his specialty is “everything,” and, if one may judge by the rack of lamb – marinated and cooked to perfection with a coating of roasted garlic, rosemary and port – he's right.

A server in black tie drifts by with a tremendous selection of appetizers, all difficult to resist, but the “Brie en forno” is a must try.

Soft Brie is wrapped in phyllo pastry, baked and served with a Cumberland sauce, blending orange zest, ginger and red current jelly.

Desserts arrive on a wheeled cart, laden with mouth-watering pastries created by resident pastry chef, Rita Marini Giallonardo. Previously the head pastry chef at *Movenpick* Yorkville, Chef Rita attracts old and new followers with her rich, all natural delicacies. Her specialties include Chocolate Truffle Torte, Blueberry Lemon Curd Tart, and a white chocolate mousse in an oreo base called “Ebony and Ivory.”

Lesendro is open for a casual, relaxed lunch of delicious Italian/Mediterranean wraps and sandwiches that you can enjoy in the restaurant or take out. For more intimate groups, they have an exotic alcove, offering comfortable elegance. *Lesendro* can also successfully accommodate as many as 1,400 people for larger gatherings, such as fashion shows, weddings or bar mitzvahs. There is also *Lesendro's* famous Martini Bar. With colourful seats, hardwood floor and walls adorned with mirrors and paintings, it's the perfect locale for private functions or bridal parties.

Lesendro may be one of Yorkville's best kept secrets, but the secret is out!

Lesendro Restaurant & Martini Bar
55 Avenue Road, Toronto
416.935.0000

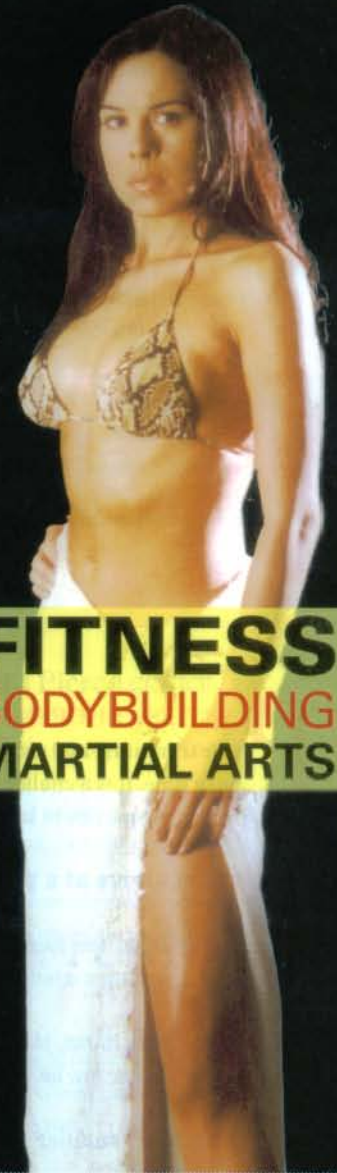
Dinner for two, with appetizer, wine and dessert, \$65-75



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