

Restaurant Review: Deluca Trattoria

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If you want to enjoy a relaxing, maybe romantic dinner at a restaurant with terrific Italian cuisine that is steps from the small-town feel of downtown El Segundo, then Deluca Trattoria just might be your choice.

Candles melting rivulets of wax over wine bottles at every table, bottles of wine ready for uncorking and the smell of various dishes cooking in the busy kitchen as the restaurant staff hustles from table to table makes dining at Deluca Trattoria a pleasure and a feast for the senses.

Appetizers are a must at Deluca Trattoria, including the mouth-watering steamed and chilled calamari with lemon and garlic or the gamberi alla griblia, grilled shrimp in tasty butter and herbs. Also available, and no less satisfying, is the caprese, bruschetta and the zuppa de giorno, or the soup of the day. Don't skip the bread either, which is served with a butter sauce with a hint of garlic.

Salads, pasta dishes and freshly made pizzas are plentiful at Deluca Trattoria but there are numerous main courses to choose from including the scampi cap sante (grilled shrimp and scallops served with grapefruit), pollo al'Limone (grilled chicken in lemon herb sauce), pollo con ripieno (chicken, goat cheese and roasted vegetables served in sauce) and the salmon alla griglia (grilled salmon over vegetables).

The highlight of the main courses might be the vitello al cacciatore, tender veal swimming in a tremendous pepper and mushroom sauce that gives another meaning to the word flavorful. Crisp vegetables, including carrots and zucchini, as well as sliced mushrooms, accompany a great meal.

The desserts, that's if there is any room left, finish off the meal perfectly. The creamy spumoni or the tiramisu is a must.

Pastas, main courses and pizzas range from the \$10 pizza margherita, with cheese, tomato and basil, to the \$18.50 osso bucco romano, or braised veal shank with tomato wine sauce.

Deluca Trattoria, located at 225 Richmond St. in El Segundo, is open for lunch (10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and dinner (beginning at 5 p.m.), Monday through Saturday, with only dinner hours on Saturdays.

For more information, call (310) 640-7600.

-The Beach Reporter staff

