

DINING OUT

New restaurant a stone's throw away in Doylestown

Clientele move from panini to full menu

Susan S. Yeske

Genevieve DiFilippo has felt at home in restaurant kitchens since she was 12 years old. That's when she talked her mother into letting her wash pots at a restaurant near her New Jersey home.

By age 14 she was working as a sauté chef and continuing on a career path that kept her working in restaurants throughout high school and college. It wasn't until after she graduated with a degree in communications that she attended culinary school, then spent 16 years working for an international food service company.

All of her experience was building toward a dream where she would own her own full-service restaurant featuring seasonally-inspired Mediterranean and Italian dishes prepared simply using as many local ingredients as possible. Along the way, she and her partner, Karen Bryant, opened Genevieve's Panini Shop in Doylestown 2½ years ago. Her dream restaurant became a reality early this month when they opened Genevieve's Kitchen nearby.

"We began looking for a full-service restaurant after 14 months at the panini shop," DiFilippo said. The new 48-seat restaurant, which was formerly Fig & Vine, was a stone's throw away from her panini shop, but she didn't see that as a problem. She simply began crafting an entirely different menu.

On a recent weekday, the new restaurant was bustling with hungry customers. DiFilippo has quickly built a following for her new eatery, thanks to the steady clientele she already had at the panini shop.

Those same customers tell her she has never looked happier than since the opening of Genevieve's Kitchen, and she agrees.

"I love it," she said. "I'm very much focused on the freshness and the quality. I like food and I like to taste food and that's what I like people to do too."

DiFilippo's menu is seasonal and includes foods that she loves. Lunchtime draws enthusiastic diners who order her "grown-up grilled cheese" made with three kinds of cheeses and



DiFilippo's crostini are topped with local wild mushrooms, garlic, crème fraiche, pecorino cheese and truffle oil.

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Genevieve DiFilippo prepares to serve her Italian Twist salad at her new restaurant, Genevieve's Kitchen in Doylestown.

house-roasted tomatoes; winter chicken salad sandwiches with dried cranberries, celery, scallions and micro greens in a wheat tortilla; grilled tuna steak with tomatoes, green and wasabi mayo; and her "V burger" made with lentils and white beans on a brioche bun with Greek yogurt lemon spread.

At dinner she offers grilled ahi tuna, arctic char, boneless chicken thighs stuffed with spinach and parmesan in a tomato red wine sauce; grilled flank steak, grilled pork chops and a vegan platter of farro with chickpeas, greens and fennel.

Brunch is served Saturday and Sunday, featuring crepes, pancakes, omelets, buttermilk biscuits with Italian sausage gravy and Genevieve's favorite, the Southern Benedict with two poached eggs, spinach and sausage gravy. Each menu item has vegan and vegetarian offerings.

The décor of the restaurant is

GENEVEE'S KITCHEN
19 E. State St., Doylestown
267-614-9635
Genevieves Kitchen
on the web

Hours: Lunch 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tue.-Fri. Dinner 5-9:30 p.m. Wed.-Sat. Brunch 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat.-Sun.

Cost: Dinner starts \$5-\$9.50, pasta \$15-\$17, entrees \$10-\$24, Lunch entrees \$9-\$14. Weekend brunch \$8-\$14.

Chef's recommendations:
Brunch - Southern Eggs Benedict, Lunch - Grown-up Grilled Cheese, V-burger, Dinner - local leaf salad, ahi tuna, winter chicken.

BYOB

Reservations: Recommended for dinner.

casual and comfortable. A highlight is the custom-made tables in the dining rooms made by at-risk students in The Challenge Program in Wilmington, Del. DiFilippo had seen similar tables at a Philadelphia restaurant and wanted them for Genevieve's Kitchen. She placed her order, and when it was finished the students came to Doylestown to put them together.

"I made them lunch and we had a great time," she said.

With everything in place, she's hard at work and making plans for the future. When warm weather comes, she plans to offer outdoor dining and expanded hours. And as the seasons change there will be more menus to develop and more opportunities to show her customers what she can do. "I want people to have a great experience, from the moment they walk in and with every bite they take."

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Ottsville Farmers' Market hosts vendor meeting

The Ottsville Outdoor Farmers' Market Vendor Meeting will be held in the greenhouse at Linden Hill Gardens, 8230 Easton Road, 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25.

The festive community-based market offers quality local produce for all to enjoy. This year, the season takes place Friday,

April 25, to Oct. 10.

The meeting is the opportunity for alumni vendors and potential new vendors, to meet one another and hear details about market vendor participation and plans for 2014.

For information, call 610-847-1300 or visit ottsvillefarmersmarket.com.

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