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Table with navigation links: Today's Weather, Living Editor, News Sections, Weekly Sections, Featured.

Tuesday, August 2, 2005

Past Issues - S | M | T | W | T | F | S Search Archives go

DINING >>

La Esperanza plans expansion with bar

Sunday, July 31, 2005
By CHRISTINA MITCHELL
Courier-Post Staff

The Cordova family recently acquired a liquor license for La Esperanza Restaurant in Lindenwold, which will also get an expansion. Already known for authentic Mexican food, La Esperanza now features a small wine list as well as signature Margaritas and Mexican beer.



Courtesy of Reading Terminal Market
Customers enjoy a free ride in a horse-drawn wagon outside Reading Terminal Market in Philadelphia during last year's Pennsylvania Dutch Festival.

Once a township plan is approved, La Esperanza will expand into the duplex next door, adding more seating and a bar. Parking also will be added.

The restaurant is run by Alejandro Cordova; his brother, Saul; and sisters, Marisela, the chef, and Claudia. It's at 40 Gibbsboro Road; call (856) 782-7114 for information. Web site is www.mexicanhope.com.

Light bites: Same owners but new name for Trattoria Barone in Cherry Hill's Barclay Shopping Center; it's now Barone's Tuscan Grill. Owners are the same clan behind Villa Barone in Collingswood. They also have Barone's Tuscan Grill in Moorestown. Call (856) 354-1888 for information. . . . Collingswood shoppers who earned dining passports during July can receive 10 percent off their check at 12 restaurants in town Aug. 1 through 4. After dining, get a discount shopping ticket good through Sept. 30 at any Collingswood retailer. Call (856) 858-9275 or go to www.collingswood.com. . . . Now open in Mount Laurel at the former Santino's - and before that, Finizio's - is Little Beef's, a deli and pizzeria. It's at Church Road and Route 73. Call (856) 722-1101. . . . Recent closings: South Beach Bar and Grill at Haddonfield Road and Route 70 in Cherry Hill, and Sil E. Willie's, the children's restaurant at the Woodbine Family Entertainment Complex in Palmyra. The latter space will likely be used to expand the Woodbine's catering facilities. No word on plans for the South Beach site. . . . Kids 12 and under eat free Monday and Tuesday at the Stone Grille Restaurant and Bar in Clementon. Call (856) 782-7111.

The Pennsylvania Dutch Festival will take place Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Aug. 11, 12 and 13 at Philadelphia's Reading Terminal Market. Hours for the free event are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday's festivities will be held outdoors to replicate a county fair and will include an animal parade and petting zoo. Discount parking will be available at the 12th and Filbert streets garage.

Reading Terminal is at 12th and Arch streets. For information on the festival, call (215) 922-2317.

To share restaurant news, call Christina Mitchell at (856) 317-7905, mail to her c/o Courier-Post, P.O. Box 5300, Cherry Hill NJ 08034 or e-mail cmitchell@courierpostonline.com.

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Birthdays	
Corrections	
Dating	
Education	
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In Memoriam	
Lottery Results	
Obituaries	
Pets	
Photo Galleries	
New! Spot News Kids Korner	
South Jersey Guide	
Weddings, Engagements & Anniversaries	
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Photo Galleries	
Brainstorms	
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