



NEW RESTAURANT - VILLA-O



Villa-O
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villaorestaurant.com

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PHOTOS: VAN DITTHAVONG

MULTIPLE OS

A bit of business first: The 'O' in Villa-O officially stands for "Original-Organic-Oceanic." After a visit or two, however, you may have a few Os of your own to add to the list...

This is the newest addition to the Knox Street neighborhood comprised of nearby restaurants and shops that cater to a glamorous, gourmet sensibility. It's across from its sister spot, Trece—another show-stopper from owner Robert Colombo. Polished wood accents are complemented by splashes of primary colors, creating an upscale, nautical feel. Think private yacht, not S.S. Minnow—the former Samba Room space is transformed into a sleek and stylish oasis for hungry patrons.

Speaking of Os, organic ingredients are used at Villa-O whenever possible, and you'll find only the freshest wild seafood and pasture-raised meats. Simple artfully executed preparations bring out the most in the raw ingredients. A choice example is the Bucatini with vodka tomato sauce. Long, tubular house-made pasta is perfect for drinking in the decadent, cream-rich sauce. Translucent scallops, calamari rings and plump seared shrimp top the pasta. Villa-O's mix-and-match pasta and sauce menu offers hundreds of options. There's a roaring wood-burning pizza oven in the back, and the Neapolitan-style pies that emerge from these flames are over the top. Crisp crust speckled with smoky char makes a tantalizing base for pizza toppings. Try the Classic Margherita with Bufala mozzarella, roasted tomatoes and fresh basil. Entrees such as Steak Pizzaiola and Organic Chicken Parmesan round out the menu. Weekend brunch features a full menu of traditional treats, as well as a new twist on Eggs Benedict, made with prosciutto and tomato-twined hollandaise.

Cocktails at Villa-O are anything but ordinary. The Frozen Sfuzzi, a froth of Prosecco and white peach nectar, is the specialty of the house. The extensive wine list—all Italian and available by the glass, half-bottle and full bottle—is another choice when it's time to wine down. Sip any of the above on Villa-O's posh patio, Dallas' newest option for seeing and being seen. Pull up a chair with the pretty people, order some organic hors d'oeuvres, and outrageously ogle to your heart's content.

— Lisa Petty