

Dinner in the back room at Dodge's Café in Elmer. See page 29.

ED HITZEL'S Restaurant Newsletter

Honest reviews, extensive news, beer and wine reports and tidbits on dining in Southern New Jersey
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Talented, expert staff at Collingswood's Water Lily provides dining experience best described as beautiful

New owners of Sweetwater Casino plan some changes

Named after Yoko Ono, Cherry Hill facility serves sushi

The tides of change have rolled into Sweetwater Casino, the riverside restaurant in Mullica

Township.

New owners Joe Cavaliere and Jeff Anastasi took over last year and are looking to expand the menu and make the picturesque

lounge and deck a new destination to just hang out, especially if appetizers, drinks and dancing are what you are looking for, no matter what the season.

"Currently we are looking to expand the bar menu to have more salads and seafood dishes," Anastasi said. "We will also have more draft beers on tap, several seasonal beers and want to expand the wine list to include more California wines instead of the heavy French selection we currently have."

They plan to introduce a new

(See *Restaurant News* on page 8)

COLLINGSWOOD – The main business district in Collingswood is brightly lit with white lights that outline tree

REVIEW Nina Soifer

branches and shops along the avenue. It is below freezing, and although the streets are sparse with holiday shoppers, a festive aura abounds.

Through a loudspeaker

perched up high, Elvis croons holiday tunes as we walk to Water Lily Bistro across the street from where we park.

It is nineteen degrees, and the warmth of the entryway that the restaurant shares with its neighbor feels good. Lush seasonal greenery and poinsettias decorate the build-

(See *Review* on page 2)

When something is this luscious, I don't want it to end. Eventually it does, but my taste buds will always remember it.

Ratings page 5.
"Best" list page 6.

Resort's Girasole offers a respite from the city; quality Italian food pairs with elegant service

ATLANTIC CITY – Go beyond the darkened, nondescript storefront façade and beyond the windows concealed with ceiling-to-floor draperies and there you will find a world bustling with energy and resounding in notes of celebration. It is just on the other side of the doors of this Italian restaurant that you are immediately greeted by the sounds of clinking wine glasses poised in toast Bacchana-

REVIEW Janice Gallagher

You will find quality, Italian cuisine served with a gourmet spin... a world bustling with energy and resounding in notes of celebration.

Ratings page 17.
"Best" list page 6.

lian style, by the ethereal chords of a mandolin floating through the air, and by the very friendly, and very Italian owner, Gino. In a town where many non-casino restaurants struggle to survive for even a single season, Girasole has not only survived but has in fact flourished. The stresses of the gambling madness that so often characterize visits to Atlantic City, instantly melt away once you step

(See *Review* on page 14)

⇒ **Books for eating and dining, sort of. Bill Kent's Shelf Respect. Page 22.**

⇒ **The top ten reasons why beer is better than wine, and visa versa. Gary Monterosso on beer. Page 23.**



⇒ **Wine is a healthy beverage, compared to almost everything. George Wackenheim on wine. Page 18.**

Watch us weekends. Listen on Saturdays.
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