

## DINING



Diners at La Dolce Vita are greeted by a mural on the restaurant's main wall.

NORM SONDAK

# Life is sweet indeed at La Dolce Vita

By Eileen Sondak

LA JOLLA LIGHT

With Old World charm and authentic cuisine, La Dolce Vita brings a little bit of Italy to the La Jolla dining scene.

The restaurant, located in a quaint courtyard off Prospect Street, has an intimate interior comprised of several small dining rooms that calls to mind a small cafe in Italy. The outdoor patio feels just like an ancient palazzo. What a wonderful backdrop for traditional Italian food with a contemporary flair.

Owner/Chef Enzo Castiglione puts his signature on familiar Italian favorites, as well as some California classics, such as spinach salad. If you order the spinach salad (\$5.95) at La Dolce Vita — and I highly recommend that you do — you'll be pleasantly surprised. Along with the spinach and balsamic dressing, the chef adds melon and prosciutto and the combination of flavors and textures is terrific and quite unusual.

You can also opt for the traditional prosciutto atop melon slices (\$5.95) for starters, along with traditional bruschetta (\$4.75) and other Italian antipasti. Our favorite on the appetizer menu is the melanzane al caprino (\$5.95). This excellent eggplant dish is

covered with sun-dried tomatoes and goat cheese spread, and it's a favorite.

Entrees are just as exciting and creative. The house specialty a veal extravaganza called salimbocco alla Romono (\$16.95) is made with tender veal scallopine topped with prosciutto and melted mozzarella in a white wine sauce. It's a marvelous dish, served with mashed potatoes and fresh vegetables.

All the pastas are homemade and delicious. If you can't decide on one, you can split an order and try two. The spaghetti pescatore (\$16.95) is very popular, with its assortment of shrimp, scallops, clams, mussels, calamari and baby shrimp. We love the gnocchi, potato dumplings in a light gorgonzola cream sauce (\$10.95). The ravioli with baby shrimp and scallops in a lovely pink champagne cream sauce (\$13.95) is another great pasta creation.

Friday evening's entertainment offers at least one opera singers to add to the festive ambiance.

Enjoy the meal and the beautiful mural on the main wall depicting a scene from the movie "La Dolce Vita," the restaurant's namesake. It reminds one how sweet life can be.

Friendly service, a warm, cozy environment, and good Italian cooking, what more could you ask?

La Dolce Vita is at 1237 Prospect St. Call 454-2524 for information.

**TABLE  
MANNERS**