

# Dallas Goes Loco for Saint Rocco's



PHOTO BY MARIA HARRISON



**T**rinity Groves, the restaurant, retail, artist and entertainment complex located by the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge in West Dallas, recently added Italian to their palate with a new restaurant: Saint Rocco's New York Italian. Restaurant legend Phil Romano, known for EatZi's and Romano's Macaroni Grill, opened Saint Rocco's with Executive Chef and co-owner Jay Valley. The restaurant celebrates Italian-American cuisine.

On my first visit with my family in tow, I made my way to Trinity Groves around 7 p.m. on a Thursday night earlier this month. Saint Rocco's faces the spectacular Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge and the outside patio has festive string lights and overhanging oak trees.

Taking advantage of the beautiful October weather, we decided to sit in the outdoor patio though the inside of the restaurant had plenty of seating. Vintage photographs line the indoor walls, black-and-white subway tile covers the floors and the attractive kitchen is opened for diners to see.

The mix of classic Italian-American music including "That's Amore" drowned out the noise of the passing cars. We browsed the menu that was split into appetizers, flatbreads, salads and entrees, along with a nameless soup of the week. If interested in the soup, ask the waiter, who will list the ingredients. For the most part, all the dishes ranged from \$10-\$40.

To start the meal, we ordered

carpaccio served with mouthwatering meat and zesty arugula, freshly topped with Italian parmesan cheese and capers, which provided a pleasant salty tang.

The restaurant's menu, however, does not give vegetarians, vegans and gluten-free customers many options. But their salads are not ordinary. I ordered the strawberry arugula salad with grilled balsamic strawberries.

Along with the slow and infrequent service we experienced on our first visit, the server brought me the wrong salad. Five minutes later, the waiter arrived with my dish, which had a kick in the back of my throat from the heavy balsamic dressing and the sweet strawberries.

We also ordered different flatbreads for the table: a deconstructed and unconventional Sicilian lasagna with tossed noodles, sausage and ragu, and a braised pork. The portions were generous and the plates were good to share.

Starting around 7:30 p.m., diners flocked the restaurant and

soon every table became filled. Toward the end of our dinner, our table finished the evening with the chocolate espresso cake, which I recommend if you like both chocolate and espresso as their tastes are very evident in this cake.

After leaving Saint Rocco's, I immediately planned a second trip to the restaurant with my parents. On a Saturday night in mid-October, we returned to Saint Rocco's around 6 p.m. It's a good idea to make a reservation ahead of time.

The second time around was even better! Speedy service, fresh food and an entertaining waiter satisfied our evening.

I struggled to put down the crunchy margherita flatbread at the beginning of dinner. My dad and I chose to order cannolis for dessert this time. For my first time trying a cannoli, the chocolate chips and bittersweet cream filling satisfied my appetite.

Soon after, I started planning a third trip.

Saint Rocco's was a nice break from the traditional Ital-

ian restaurants in Dallas, mainly serving pizza and conventional takes on pasta. However, if Italian is not your preference, the restaurants at Trinity Groves range from tapas to barbeque to Japanese. There, everyone can find something they like to eat!

According to the Saint Rocco Society of Potenza, the protector against the plague and all contagious diseases is most celebrated by Italians. With the immigration of Italians into New York, the celebration and feast of Saint Rocco celebrated in August followed. Now, it has arrived in West Dallas.

The bottom of the menu reads "If Saint Rocco were here eating with us today, he would say... 'Jesus Christ, This Food is Good!'" I definitely cannot argue.

MARIA HARRISON  
STAFF WRITER

★★★★★

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3011 Gulden Lane #100  
Monday - Thursday 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Friday-Saturday 5 p.m. - 11 p.m.  
Sunday 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

# Me, My Selfie and I

Social Media Manager Manisha Ratakonda investigated the best spots at Hockaday to hit up for a quality snap.

## El Elephante ▶

This gentle giant, created by alumna Meredith Burke '15, lives in the art gallery located in the science building. This clearly made the list because how many people are able to take a selfie with a wild elephant? If you choose to take a selfie with this wild creature, be sure to handle it with care.



## ◀ Sun Mural

Walking through the halls of Upper School, it is easy to come across strong artwork created by our very own classmates. I found an amazing art mural outside of the Upper School office which was just begging for me to take a selfie with it. The sun in the mural was literally wearing sunglasses. Nothing could be cooler than that (or should I say hotter?)!

## Jade Plant ▶

The infamous Hockaday jade plant is one of the school's most prized possessions, so it's no surprise that it made the list of best selfie spots. Its verdant leaves and delicate stems make for an ideal selfie partner. When taking pictures with the jade plant, be sure to be gentle and don't water it! Soft smiles are recommended.



## ◀ Foucault Pendulum

One of the recent additions to the school, Hockaday's Foucault pendulum is a great spot for selfies. Be careful, it moves quickly and it can be hard to take a picture with! Located on the first floor of the science building, this is also a spot with almost perfect lighting. Science AND amazing lighting... what could possibly make for a better selfie?

# Student Models Strut to the Top

**F**ive minutes until the top of the show!” As makeup artists powder and blend away the contour beneath her cheeks and hair stylists tug to pull her hair in a tight low ponytail, sophomore Abby Bush, dressed in Calvin Klein’s

sports collection, shuts her copy of “Jane Eyre” – which she is reading for her English class – and scrambles to get ready to walk New York Fashion Week.

Bush’s modeling career took off last October when she was approached by the director of Wallflower Agency while shopping on Knox Street. A few months later, she was racing around the Dallas area and beyond, modeling for various brands and designers, including Kendra Scott and Calvin Klein. But with all that glitz and glamour, she’s been forced to prioritize school, sports and modeling.

“The coolest shoot I’ve ever done is definitely modeling for the Kendra Scott spring collection for 2016,” Bush said. “It really made me realize how lucky and fortunate I am to do what I do because modeling for my favorite jewelry brand was very surreal.”

Oftentimes, Bush receives a call the night before a shoot or show, and needs to decide in that moment if she will take the job. In her mind, school always comes first. If she has a big test or project due, she will choose not to accept the job. But when she is offered once in a lifetime opportunities like walking New York Fashion Week, Bush is willing to put school on hold.

“Walking for Calvin Klein was super scary but so cool because ev-

erything and everyone was so professional, and I loved the clothing and all the models I got to work with. I grew so much as a model from this experience,” Bush said.

However, in order to keep up with school, Bush has learned to multi-task and use all of her free time. This means doing homework or studying en route to jobs, keeping a spare stack of notecards in her suitcase, and downloading the Quizlet app on her phone. She also takes full advantages of Y periods and conferences to ask teacher questions and to get a head start on homework. And although spending more time in New York exploring Fashion Week would have been ideal, Bush completed her trip in less than two days in order to minimize time away from school as much as possible.

But there is more to Bush’s busy schedule: sports. As a member of Hockaday’s junior varsity field hockey team, she has missed multiple games and practices to walk runways or model for photo shoots.

“I made a commitment to my team at the beginning of the year,” Bush said. “So I am there the majority of the time to do anything I can to help out the team.”

And Bush is also not the only Hockaday model that is finding the balance between rocking the runway and keeping up with



Aug. 2014 / May 2015

Freshman Gabri Kim (left) and Sophomore Abby Bush (right) pose for the cameras.



PHOTOS BY PAUL ROMO

school and extracurriculars.

Freshman Gabri Kim is also a model for Wallflower Management, and like Bush, her modeling career started unexpectedly. Last summer, Kim was her friend’s plus one at a Wallflower event, and after talking with the directors of the agency, she received her own contract a week later.

Kim, also a member of the junior varsity field hockey team, often goes to downtown Dallas after sports practice to collect digitals. By the time she’s home, she only has a couple of hours to finish all of her homework.

These girls know the importance

of school over modeling and, as of right now, pursue modeling as a hobby.

“Even though modeling is so much fun, I would love to do something more substantial when I get older because I have other interests,” Kim said.

For senior Olivia Stern, her career started in the seventh grade at a hair salon when a man sitting a few chairs down gave her his card. She now models for Kim Dawson Agency in Dallas and has experience with big department stores like JCPenny in her resume.

Because she does mostly runway work, Stern’s weekdays schedule is often booked with Dallas lunch or dinner events that require her to miss school. However, she says that if she is honest with her teachers

about her whereabouts, they are usually very understanding.

Although Stern no longer plays sports, in her freshman year, she had to race from a big show straight to a lacrosse game, playing the entire game in full runway makeup and hair. Granted, both teams were a little confused, but Stern was there and ready to play.

These Hockaday students are following behind the footsteps of many alumnae models. Olivia Whittaker, for instance, a current freshman at the University of Southern California, often missed conference periods, lunches, Y period and free periods to rush to castings or jobs downtown. Many might recognize Whittaker from billboards, websites or magazines as she served as the face of Cantu Beauty, an ethnic hair care line. Although she gained success with modeling, she always kept school as her number one focus. Like Bush, she learned to do homework in between shots or while she was getting her makeup done, even if it was embarrassing in front of other models.

Whittaker had some advice for girls who work as models during high school.

“Stay focused and keep true to yourself. While modeling can seem cool and glamorous, it’s very temporary, and a great education – like the one you all are receiving at Hockaday – is much more ‘glamorous’ and valuable in the long run,” Whittaker said. “Also, don’t ever compromise yourself or your values. There’s always an opportunity knocking at another door.”

AURELIA HAN  
STAFF WRITER

# St. Mark's Cheerleaders Tumble Through Stereotypes

Pompoms in hand, short skirt on and hair in a high ponytail, senior Ellie Bush, leads the cheerleading team onto the football field. Although the media's and the public's perception is that a cheerleader can only be peppy and provocative, St. Mark's cheerleaders

demonstrate how they break the stereotype off the field.

But this stereotype also exists at Hockaday.

"The majority of the comments that I heard revolve around the notion that cheerleaders are not smart," former St. Mark's Cheer captain Rachel Compton '09 said.

Many cheerleaders are astonished upon hearing the derogatory stereotype. Former and aspiring, determined cheerleaders are examples of how this wide misconception is false.

"It is not unusual for a cheerleader to vary in academic, athletic and extracurricular interests," said former St. Mark's cheerleader Hailey Winston '13, who is currently a junior at Yale.

Like other athletes, high school and college cheerleaders must maintain a strict grade point average. Compton, who was also University of Virginia's 2012 cheer captain, was a witness to how cheerleaders kept good grades, along with the practices and travel time that came with being a cheerleader.

"Furthermore, cheerleaders have to learn a vast amount of information in a very short time period," Compton said. "We are expected to learn and perfect new dances, cheers and routines every week before each game."

This academic rigor is true for many professional cheerleaders. Amy Trader, a current Dallas Cowboys cheerleader, majored in biomedical engineering with a minor in computational neuroscience. Trader hopes to use her degree "to develop implantable discs that change people's lives and help with injuries."

Trader isn't the only one with goals. Bush is currently taking several AP classes, applying for top colleges and participating in the highest level of HockaDance. Looking into the future, Bush aspires to be a speech pathologist, helping people ranging from kids with autism to elderly folks.

"Hockaday and St. Mark's cheerleading has taught me how to speak up, use my voice and be a

leader," Bush said.

Along with Bush, other Hockaday cheerleaders strive for success away from the pompoms. First year cheerleader, sophomore Kaleigh Beacham, participates in Hockadebate, Model UN and Girl Scouts along with taking one AP course and two honors classes.

"I might have even [tried out for cheerleading] as kind of a challenge to myself, because it's unlike a lot of the other stuff I do," Beacham said. "It was kind of taking a risk and putting myself out there in front of an audience."

While maintaining the leadership of cheer captain at University of Virginia, Compton earned her bachelor's degree in American studies and political science. Now, she works as a deputy press secretary for a congressman.

"One of the most important things cheerleading taught me was how to effectively manage my time," Compton said. "With practices every night and games every weekend, I had to learn how to prioritize my schoolwork and make the most of my free time."

Winston also has to manage her time while pursuing her passion of applied mathematics and economics at Yale. As a Hockaday senior, Winston served as editor-in-chief of The Fourcast and participated in Habitat for Humanity and JETS.

Former Philadelphia 76ers professional cheerleader Darlene Cavalier is another example of someone who has broken the stereotype. Cavalier worked full-time at Discover, a company owned by the Walt Disney Company for 10 years, a time period in which she met some of the brightest minds in science. Finding her passion in science, Cavalier earned her Master's degree while studying science policy and sociology at the University of Pennsylvania.

Featuring current and former professional cheerleaders, Darlene Cavalier started "Science Cheerleader," a blog that opens conversation on science policy and research while also



7:30 p.m. Sept. 28

Senior Wendy Cohen and junior Sam Galardi cheer on the St. Mark's Lions.

supporting "Science Cheerleaders" as they pursue careers in math, science, technology or engineering.

According to Cavalier, possible employers will express their concern about "past cheerleader" on the resumes of the "Science Cheerleaders." However, Cavalier knows that the cheerleaders have the potential for professional success due to skills of time management, determination and ambition learned through cheerleading.

While developing her website, Cavalier knew she had to "combine the academic attitude of UPenn, the mass reach of Disney and the in-your-

face, pom-pom waving personality of a 76ers cheerleader."

This type of information helps the public shape a different, new opinion on cheerleaders.

"When you do see positive interpretations of cheerleaders, it is somehow the cheerleaders defying an expectation," Beacham said.

And while these former high school cheerleaders are currently pursuing high-caliber careers, they look back at their high school years fondly.

MARIA HARRISON  
STAFF WRITER

# Religion Trumps Politics



Senior Inaara Padani

“Donald J. Trump is calling for a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country’s representatives can figure out what is going on,” Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said, reading from a piece of paper about Muslim immigration released by his campaign.

I pressed pause. Fifteen seconds had passed in a video of Trump speaking at his campaign rally on Dec. 7 in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, and I just didn’t want to hear more.

The emotions came one after the other as I attempted to stomach his words.

I immediately felt angry. “A total and complete shutdown!?” If such an outrageous scenario were to actually happen, who would it apply to? Syrian refugees struggling to escape the war that has torn up the place they used to call home? Muslim-American citizens returning from a trip overseas? Muslims serving in the military? My own mother and father? Me?

Next came the frustration. As a

Muslim, nothing is more exasperating than being placed in the same category as Islamic terrorists. If you ask me, those people are not Muslims. Their true religion is violence and hatred. They kill innocent people in the name of Islam — and the Islam that I know, the Islam that has nurtured me for as long as I can remember, the Islam that has helped me grow closer to God, does not sanction such inhumane crimes.

All of this bitterness was initially directed toward Trump, at least until I decided to click play again. And that’s when I felt hurt. Sure, Trump’s words were, and still are, offensive. But the cheering, whistling and applause that followed his statement — that’s what was truly upsetting.

For months, I’ve always wondered how Trump continues to lead the polls almost every week without fail. Some of his comments and tweets are the opposite of what a presidential candidate should be saying; they’re insensitive and prejudiced.

But I’ve realized that Trump’s success comes from his choice to abandon the concept of political correctness and state what some people in this country actually feel and believe: According to a New York Times/CBS News poll conducted in early December, Americans are more afraid now of an imminent terrorist attack since the weeks following Sept. 11, 2001. Seventy-nine percent of those surveyed “believe a terrorist attack is somewhat likely or very likely in the next few months.”

Perhaps one reason that many

Americans are feeling this way is because recently, nearly every news source has written an article or two intertwining the words “bombs,” “shootings,” “radical Islam” and “Muslims.” These articles became even more commonplace following the events in Paris and San Bernardino.

Of course, hearing about such unjust tragedies would make anyone worried and afraid. So when an influential public figure like Trump says that Muslims should be banned or at the very least placed in a national database, he’s appealing to the masses by making them feel “safe.” He’s using a fear-mongering tactic to garner more support for his campaign. He says that he wants to “make America great again,” yet he’s simultaneously going against the constitutional rights of Muslims

and violating the ideals that America stands upon.

Many don’t realize that this is exactly what groups like ISIS want. They want to create a divide between Islam and the West. They want Muslims to feel like they don’t belong so that they can recruit more people for their cause. If we want to stand up to terrorist organizations, then staying united is the best way to do so.

As a Muslim, I am guaranteed the freedom of religion, just like any other American citizen. But how am I supposed to practice this freedom when my own country fears it? I’m tired of feeling afraid when I go through security at an airport. I’m tired of feeling like I have to apologize for the actions of some. I’m tired of feeling like I have to hide my religion. I am a Muslim, but I am not a terrorist. So don’t classify me as one.



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHAN