



## Best Italian:

### *Basil Leaf Cafe*

Among the trees and two-lane roads of Locust Valley is the Italian restaurant Basil Leaf. With its green canopy and windows with mullions, the restaurant appears unassuming and humble. Everywhere is cozy, whether you're dining indoors in the main or secondary building, or dining outdoors in the courtyard under umbrellaed tables between the two buildings.



Owner Vito Patronelli, also owner of Lola in Huntington (see page 27), has teamed with Executive Chef Marco Divina to create a memorable menu. At a recent tasting with BOLIR's Creative Director Josh Orlean, I sampled several fine entrees. The Grilled Baby Lamb Chops with mixed herbs were juicy and packed with barbecue flavor and can tempt any vegetarian—even our creative director. The Sliced Sirloin Steak served



*Basil Leaf Salad: Sauteed Artichokes, Pistachio Nuts, Greens and Parmesan Cheese*



*Grilled Baby Lamb Chops with mixed herbs*

with grilled vegetables is fanned across an oversized plate. The pasta is homemade and flavorful. Vito makes all of his sauces on the light side and does not use cream or butter.

Don't forget about the pizza: Pizza Bianca with prosciutto, fontina, arugula, and fresh tomato; Pizza Ortolano with goat cheese and sundried tomatoes; or a pizza any way you want it. Chef Marco, who trained in Italy, prepares all desserts freshly in house. We sampled a few and all were fantastic.



*Rigatoni with Broccoli Rabe, Grilled Chicken, Sundried Tomatoes, Garlic and Oil*



*Sliced Sirloin Steak served with Grilled Vegetables*

For the total dining experience, food rich in taste served in a quaint, Gold Coast atmosphere, try Basil Leaf Cafe.

—Marc Weiss

**Address:** 7b The Plaza Shoppes, Locust Valley  
516-676-6252

**Hours:**

Lunch: Monday–Sunday: 12:00 am–4:00pm  
Dinner: Sunday–Thursday: 4:00pm–10:30pm  
Friday and Saturday: 4:00pm–11:30pm

**Reservations:** Recommended on weekends

**Credit Cards:**

MasterCard, American Express, Visa, Diners Club

**Check Average:** Appetizer and Entrée without drinks \$18 to \$20 per person

**Attire:**

Casual



BASIL LEAF CAFE