

Cognoscenti

magazine

Because life is short

Restaurant Passetto Rome, Italy

Tired of dining on Rome's made-for-tourist meal circuit? Try **Passetto**. Just steps from the Piazza Navona, this bastion of fine dining is a real family affair, with manager/sommelier Bruno Fioravanti operating the restaurant along with two brothers, a sister and their parents. Depending on the season, the Fioravanti family will gladly show you bulging baskets of fresh porcini mushrooms, exotic white truffles, or a glass counter behind which glisten several varieties of fish purchased daily—and sometimes even twice a day—in the local markets.

Authentic is the word that comes to mind—it's an over-used term perhaps, but one that surely applies to this classic family business with a strict devotion to product freshness, a lack of service affectation, and fine execution of dishes that are kept straightforward and simple. According to Mr. Fioravanti, over the years this recipe has drawn such famous diners as Charlie Chaplin, Richard Gere and Harrison Ford to Passetto.

Inside, it's nicely decorated in Roman tones of blue, ochre and golden yellow along with some lovely mosaic work of trees and fish. When visiting **Cognoscenti Magazine** editors asked for a selection of antipasti, Romeo—our irrepressible table captain—brought out two plates heaped high with delicacies like marinated artichoke, grilled zucchini, roasted red pepper *bruschetta* with Tuscan olive oil, *bresaola della Valtellina* and cold seafood salad. In baked *dorade* with rosemary, tomatoes and black olives, the fish was served tender yet firm.

From the restaurant's excellent 900 label-strong wine card, the bottle we selected was an equal delight: a 1999 *Cervaro della Sala Antinori* Chardonnay. It opened to a rich, fat bouquet of butter and roasted hazelnuts, with more delicate notes of thyme and dried herbs surfacing in the long finish.

Recommended!

This article was written by contributing editors to *Cognoscenti Magazine*.

© 2004 *Cognoscenti Magazine*

Restaurant Passetto

Via Zanardelli 14

Piazza Navona

00186 Roma

Italy

Tel: 39-06-68-80-36-96

Web: www.ristorantepassetto.com

Email: ristorantepassetto@hotmail.com