

Cognoscenti magazine

Because life is short

ZEFFIRINO KULM
PORTOFINO, ITALY

The **Zeffirino Kulm**, one of a group of restaurants operated by this famous family, is located on a *fin-de-siècle* gem of a property found at the end of a winding road, at the very summit of the Mount of Portofino. This property was been carefully renovated in 2000 and developed as a hotel featuring 77 luxury guest rooms. The restaurant is adjacent to the hotel.



Zeffirino Kulm stands above Portofino

fine, the ravioli enriched with squid ink. Next came pasta with basil cream, also fine—the stuffing flavored with perceptive touches of almond and amaretto. The main course, sea bass, was rather less captivating, arriving overcooked and wrapped in a salty pork skin.

The upper terrace on the Kursaal hall, which was once the site of an elegant, turn-of-the-century casino, offers visitors one of the world's finest travel views, with dazzling blue water—the Gulf of Tigullio *and* the Paradise Gulf—on both sides. As Marco Zeffirino, the restaurant's charismatic manager, explained to visiting **Cognoscenti Magazine** editors in an exclusive interview, the facility does a brisk banquet business catering to affluent families who justly recognize the setting as one of the most splendid anywhere for special occasions like weddings and reunions.

At a table looking off to the Paradise Gulf, with the lengthening shadows of a summer evening falling elegantly over the room, we made our selections from a leather-bound menu.

The kitchen of chef Fabrizio Zannini produced generally good dishes. The white and black ravioli starter, served with steamed lobster and seafood, was very

The recommended wine, a signature Zeffirino bottle, the *Colli du Lumi* 2001 (Vermentino) was fair enough, although its sauterne-like flavors struck us as too closed to match the lightness of our seafood choices.

Snifters of cognac served in the stylish downstairs bar concluded our visually expansive evening.

This article was written by Jeffrey Riggs and other contributing editors to *Cognoscenti Magazine*. Photo courtesy of Zeffirino Kulm.

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