

CANALETTO

Ristorante Veneto

CHEF BIO

Gianpaolo Putzu
Chef/Partner

With a passion for fine cuisine, people and service, Gianpaolo Putzu joins Canaletto Ristorante Veneto as Chef/Partner. Putzu, a long-time member of the Il Fornaio family has joined Vice President/Executive Chef Maurizio Mazzon to create an inspired, authentic Venetian menu for this destination restaurant of The Venetian.

Growing up in the Italian province of Sardegna, Putzu began his restaurant career at age 15 when he left home to attend cooking school, following his older brother. The stories of the different techniques his brother learned sounded interesting to Gianpaolo, so quickly followed his brother to school to learn the basics of the kitchen from A to Z. In summertime he interned at hotels on the Costa Smeralda, a newly-developed resort area that was to become the jewel of Sardegna's tourist industry.

After graduation, Gianpaolo took seasonal jobs cooking – Val d'Aosta in the north in winter, and back to his home region of Costa Smeralda in summer. For five years he traveled back and forth, living out of his suitcase. "It was exciting", Gianpaolo says of those times, "We were young and had so much to learn. We worked with a different chef each season, so gained lots of experience with different recipes." By age twenty-two, Gianpaolo was in charge of the pasta, vegetable and soup in the hotel Romazzino (Sardinian for "wild rosemary") in Sardegna, overseeing two chefs of his own.

It was his accomplishments in Italy that led Gianpaolo to Las Vegas, Nevada to help his friend open a restaurant. The restaurant's success caught the attention of Il Fornaio and Gianpaolo was chosen to help open the very first Il Fornaio Cucina Italiana in Corte Madera, California in 1997. After a successful opening, Gianpaolo was named chef partner of Il Fornaio's Coronado location. Now Il Fornaio Vice President/Executive Chef Maurizio Mazzon has chosen Gianpaolo as Chef Partner of Canaletto based on his outstanding career.

Putzu is excited about his latest challenge. With a beautiful restaurant located in the landmark Venetian Resort Hotel Casino, he can now indulge his most creative culinary fantasies at this international destination.