

Review of Andreoli Italian Grocer

Walking through the door of Andreoli's Italian Grocer is like walking into another time, where family is the number one priority and feeding them, WELL, came in at a very close second. Once inside you can smell the passion that goes into Giovanni's creations and take in the scene which emulates a happier "Godfatherish" time. Regulars are joyfully nudging each other in the gut while demeaning one another in their native tongue. It is a sheer joy to stand back and experience such camaraderie. AND then the FOOD!!! This is what draws not only the local Italian crowd to Andreoli's but every excited patron from Calabria to Fountain Hills! I have never seen a chef do more with three ingredients than Giovanni. Giovanni's methods blow away modern day chefs feeble attempts to create a masterpiece with a mere 15 ingredients to shame.

Giovanni greets us and hugs my children as we choose our table (they are hard to come by), before we order, my daughter swears his pizza is the "best in the world" and my son must have the scrumptious grilled calamari which in this visit, insists on another order. I order a side of meatballs and the special which on that day happens to be sweetbreads slightly fried and sautéed in a mouthwatering garlic caper sauce. Perfect!

I have been lucky enough to step into his kitchen and watch him skillfully create sheer salivating heaven, while his daughter handles vendors, his beautiful wife controls all receivables, his adoring sons greet customers with sincere salutations and his "employees" skillfully follow his lead. Giovanni makes ALL of his own salami's, breads and pastries, he is a true artisan. I have seen first hand, vendors enter with their product as Giovanni eyes each individual piece of produce and cheese and turn away any product with the slightest imperfection. This, I'm sure is a pain for Andreoli's vendors but a sigh of relief for his customers. Giovanni's kitchen is a glorious extension of his family. He has the same wonderful chefs who he trained as teenagers still with him today. His pride, experience and passion for cooking have inspired everyone around him.

We felt like we were a part of his family, his knowledge and his passion, not just his customers. It is disheartening that more family run businesses can not accomplish what Andreoli's Italian Grocer has but at the same time we are greatly appreciative that this one has made it! Thank you Scorzo family for allowing us to experience your family and we will for ever be salivating in your honor.

J.Seed