

Readers' Poll **Best Italian Restaurant**

Il Fornaio's (223 Corte Madera Town Center, Corte Madera, 415/927-4400) winning

combination of an authentic Italian menu, stellar wine list and a spacious, comfortable dining area secured the corporation's flagship store's top position in this category. Serving 600 meals a day to hungry locals, Chef/partner C.J. Snyder keeps things fresh, friendly and consistent, whether he's grilling up a special of freshwater prawns, overseeing the woodfire pizza oven or talking to guests out on the floor. General Manager Mike McCarthy oversees an extensive reserve wine list to support the menu of traditional Italian recipes including rotisserie meats, salads and freshly made pasta. Guest chefs take turns presenting special menus that spotlight regions of Italy and diners can always count on great bread (the restaurant was founded on the importance of fresh baking). The staff is as loyal as the clientele. Both Snyder and McCarthy note they "get to go to work" and many of the waiters have worked at the restaurant longer than either partner.

2nd place: Il Davide Restaurant, 901 A St., San Rafael, 415/454-8080

3rd place: Cucina, 510 San Anselmo Ave., San Anselmo, 415/454-2942