



à la carte:

Marinades Pizza Bistro & Grill One Eleven

It's one door that offers two different paths. Depending on your mood, you could head straight for the well-known gourmet wood-fired pizzas that Marinades Pizza Bistro offers or take a left turn for something new, Grill One Eleven, an American grill "with us adding our own twist, of course," owner Aaron Zainea said.

Zainea knows how to create a signature menu. Nine years ago, he and his wife, Amy, opened Marinades at 2844 Lake Michigan Drive, with its specialty gourmet pizzas that feature such combinations as Potato Rosemary, Chicken Barbecue, and Sweet & Salty. That success has led to two more Marinades, 109 Courtland Drive, Rockford, and 450 Baldwin Street, Jenison.

A new opportunity presented itself when the Zaineas were able to secure a liquor license for the Rockford location, which led them to revamp the building next door at 111 Courtland featuring a granite/mahogany bar downstairs and an upstairs dining room designed by Amy Zainea in earth-tone colors with a setting of two sofas near a fireplace and an outdoor patio overlooking Rockford.

The menu features fresh, homemade creations by Chef John Butler such as Crab and Hash Cakes, Prosciutto Filet, and Baked and Fried Grouper sandwiches along with Seafood Stuffed Grouper. "Grouper was something that we had had in Florida and it was something we wanted to bring back up here," Aaron Zainea said. On Sunday, the restaurant offers an all-inclusive Sunday buffet, which has already received high praise from patrons.

Grill One Eleven, 111 Courtland Drive, Rockford, is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. The Marinades Pizza Bistro restaurants are open seven days a week. For more information on any of the restaurants, visit www.marinadespizzabistro.com

By JOANNE N. BAILEY

