

# cast

# feast or family

## La Bottega

What started as a dream to open a single restaurant in America has blossomed over fifteen years into a mini empire of 15 café/restaurants throughout New York. High school sweethearts from the age of 16, Giuseppe & Marisa Ruta came to America from Italy with two hundred dollars and a dream. They share a tireless work ethic, a deep passion for food and an endless love for each other

## Giuseppe:

An old fashioned romantic, Giuseppe is self made from the old country. His experience in the restaurant business began as a busboy and he has held every possible position on the way to finally becoming the boss of his own company. He built most of their first restaurant on Long Island with his own hands, even enlisting their children to paint and help in any way they could. Giuseppe is all about family. In fact the first chef he hired was his wife Marisa, which turned out to be the best career move the both of them could have made.

## Marisa:

Marisa's Sicilian roots and time spent in her mother's kitchen gave her the imagination to make their menu and the skills to run a kitchen. Over time she's trained their growing staff and raised their family. Now with their children almost grown, life is coming full circle. Her newest baby is an additional restaurant, to be opened back where it all began – in Italy.

