

Local Restaurants

Advertising Section

Marina del Rey:

Restaurants receive culinary award, honorable mention in cooking competition

Two Marina del Rey restaurants were presented with Italy's highest culinary award and one Playa del Rey restaurant received honorable mention in a cooking competition to determine the most creative "Q" dish on May 4th at the Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Westwood.

The first California "Q" seals of authenticity" golden plates were presented to 31 certified Los Angeles restaurateurs. Antica Pizzeria at 13455 Maxella Ave. in the Villa Marina Marketplace and Saporì at 13723 Fiji Way, Marina del Rey both re-

ceived Italy's top culinary honor, the "Q" Seal of Quality. Caffè Pinguini at 6935 Pacific Ave., Playa del Rey, won honorable mention in the "L.A. Top Chef Italian" competition.

The highly respected "Ospitalità Italiana" Seal (Q) certification by the Chambers of Commerce in Italy distinguishes those establishments with the highest quality of hospitality, said John Blanchette for the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce West.

This is the first year that the "Q" has been awarded to es-

tablishments outside of Italy, which conducted the rigorous, demanding certification process, said Blanchette.

The reason for the international "Q" as a challenge to Italian restaurateurs around the world is their role as Ambassadors of Authentic Italian Cuisine, to protect this world heritage against the growing phenomenon of the "Italian Sounding" in order to preserve history, culture, quality and authenticity, Blanchette said.



Enrico Pinguini (left) and Tony Cotrufo with winning tiramisu from Caffè Pinguini (photo by John Blanchette)