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VOLUME 30, NUMBER 4 LEADERS 141

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Teatro Goldoni Washington, D6

WHILE WASHINGTON, DC, IS WIDELY known as the epicenter of U.S. politics, one restaurant is lobbying to make it the nation's culinary capital as well. Centrally located between Georgetown and the Capitol, Teatro Goldoni offers an exciting menu for fine Italian dining. Chef Fabrizio Aielli's culinary creations blend the authentic Venetian style – inspired by his mother's cooking – with new spices and sauces to please the palates of a high-profile clientele that includes actors Danny DeVito, Warren Beatty, and Sharon Stone.

Opened in November 1999, Teatro Goldoni features a theatrical interior design, from a bright wall of original Venetian masks to the harle-

quin panels of colored glass in the Rigoletto Room. There are also two private rooms for corporate meetings and special events.

While the sights dazzle your eyes, let the menu – featuring seared foie gras served with pear confit; a "grand fritto misto" of crispy oysters, scallops, shrimp, calamari, red peppers, and zucchini; homemade saffron half-moon pasta filled with duck confit and goat cheese; roasted quail stuffed with porcini mushrooms and fresh spinach; and risotto with lobster, roasted tomatoes, truffle oil, and sweet basil – delight your taste buds.

A Washington, DC, restaurateur since 1995, Chef Aielli has been an honored chef at the James Beard Foundation, and Teatro Goldoni was named among the "Best New Restaurants in America" in 2000 by *Esquire* magazine, and has been honored with the "Best Wine List Award" by *Wine Spectator* magazine and "Best New Wine List Concept" Award by *Food and Wine* magazine. Since 2001, both Chef Aielli and Teatro Goldoni have been recognized in *The DiRona Guide to Distinguished Restaurants of North America*.

While in America's governmental hub, there's no need to make a cross-Atlantic trip for a taste of Venetian life. Although you'll have to forgo the post-meal gondola ride, the sumptuous dining at Teatro Goldoni will surely transport you to the Adriatic.

Chef Aielli and some of Teatro Goldoni's signature dishes