

eat local

THE TIMELESS CHARM OF Tarantella

BY KERRY BROWN | PHOTOS BY CAITLIN SCOTT STAIANO/CAITLIN SCOTT PHOTOGRAPHY



When you enter Tarantella Ristorante in Medford, it feels like a cozy Italian home. You'll find a warm welcome, and the enticing aroma of sauces and fresh-baked bread will greet you. Family-owned for over 25 years, the restaurant is a community favorite. The secret to success is clear: Here, consistency is key. The recipes remain unchanged, the flavors timeless, and the hospitality second to none.

We sat in a cozy dining room. The soft light and rustic Italian decor made us feel like we were in Naples. We started with the Antipasto Freddo Alla Tarantella, made for sharing. The beautiful platter included imported prosciutto, salami, provolone, fresh mozzarella, olives, and more. A balance of salty, creamy, and briny, it awakens the palate. One favorite was the Calamari Fritti alla Vesuvio. They fried these tender calamari rings until crispy and served with hot cherry peppers, garlic, capers, and olives. The warm heat of the peppers, the tangy capers, and the crunchy fried calamari made for an unforgettable first course.



The Bird's Nest Shrimp appetizer special is grilled jumbo shrimp, wrapped in capellini, flash-fried, and dressed with sesame ginger dressing.



Margherita pizza features a thin crust, velvety plum tomato sauce, fresh basil, and creamy mozzarella. Simple, pure perfection.

Tender bone-in short rib, slow-braised to perfection, served with creamy risotto—an indulgent comfort dish that's a standout at Tarantella.



ITALIAN CLASSICS THAT SHINE

The Petto di Pollo alla Tarantella stole the show. It featured a tender chicken breast, stuffed with imported prosciutto and melted mozzarella. Sautéed mushrooms and sun-dried tomatoes added extra flavor. Usually served with a rich marsala sauce, we chose the vodka sauce instead. The creamy, tomato-infused sauce is a delicious option. The Petto di Pollo alla Parmigiana is another classic. It features a golden, breaded chicken cutlet. It's smothered in tangy tomato sauce and topped with bubbling mozzarella. It is obvious why this is Tarantella's most popular entrée.

Seafood fans will love the Zuppa di Pesce alla Tarantella. This dish features scallops, shrimp, clams, calamari, and mussels. They all swim in a fresh tomato sauce and sit atop a bed of linguine. A lobster tail perches on top of it all to take it to another level. Every forkful is a taste of the sea, rich with flavor yet light enough to keep us going.

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with the purchase of 2 entrees

Sunday - Thursday only.
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SWEET ENDINGS

Just when we thought the meal couldn't get any better, the homemade desserts arrived capping off our experience perfectly. The tiramisu is light as air. It achieves a flawless balance between layers soaked in espresso and creamy mascarpone. The cannoli has a crisp shell and a sweet, creamy ricotta-filled center. A steaming cappuccino was the perfect dessert pairing—frothy, aromatic, and indulgent.



Petto di Pollo alla Tarantella



ON AND OFF-PREMISE CATERING

Tarantella offers a full catering menu, bringing authentic Italian flavors to your event. You can also customize options to fit your needs. Perfect for any occasion, whether an intimate bridal shower, a fun birthday party, or a classy luncheon, we can accommodate up to 120 guests. We'll ensure a smooth and unforgettable experience. In addition to our on-site events, Tarantella Ristorante also caters off-premise gatherings, so you can enjoy our signature dishes anywhere. With 27 years of ownership, Sal and Benny Cappola have maintained the traditions and flavors that have made Tarantella a local favorite in Medford. Their commitment to quality and hospitality is evident in every dish.



Tiramisu and cappuccino



Zuppa di Pesce alla Tarantella

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