

Proving that you can't keep a good man downstairs, Claudio Marini, who ran the basement-level lunch canteen Caffè Linda at the Fifth Avenue flagship Benetton store with as much grace and style as anyone equipped with only a six-burner electric stove, no exhaust system, and a mob of hungry regulars lined up on the stairs can, has resurfaced a few blocks away at ground level. At the new stand-alone

restaurant, Marini reprises his winning core menu of simple, satisfying pastas, sandwiches, and salads. Plus he's added breakfast and dinner menus, a full wine list, Italian beer and – now that he's liberated from World Benetton – his own selection of Italian pop tunes playing on the sound system.

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