



Dining Out

Busy South Floridians combine dining with gift shopping

By YELENY SUAREZ

With holidays approaching, executives juggle their time by combining dining and shopping. The strategy is to find a restaurant with quick access to favorite stores.

"Being centrally located in the heart of South Beach, just off Lincoln Road, the restaurant **Miss Yip** allows for great networking — on the way there, inside and on the way back to the office," said Michael Konig, managing director of SMK Cape Horn Development Group. "It also has a close proximity to our project just two blocks away on Michigan Avenue."

Miss Yip was founded by Jonathan Morr Group partners Jenny Yip and Amir Ben-Zion. It opened in February.

"After lunch, I frequent Books and Books, where I shop for myself; Pottery Barn, for my mother; and Bebe, for my girlfriend," Mr. Konig said.

Chinese chef Vincent Cheng cooks up dishes such as sauteed shrimp, \$15.95; orange peel beef, \$14.95; and Chinese beefsteak with BBQ sauce, \$17.95.

Miss Yip, 1661 Meridian Ave., is open noon-11 p.m. Sundays-Thursdays and noon-midnight Fridays and Saturdays. *Details:* (305) 534-5488.

"**Italy Today** is centrally located when dining and shopping," said Terry Chavez Pedrosa, an attorney at Adorno and Yoss. "After having my favorite dish, chicken spinach, I visit my favorite boutique, Moon Drops. Though pricey, you are sure to find a unique item for any special gift or special occasion."

"For those wishing to spend a little less, there are stores like Purple Rain, where clothes, shoes and accessories are more accessible."

Featured dishes include spaghetti carbonara, \$10.25; lasagna Napoletana, \$10.50; and risotto alla pescadora, \$14.95.

Italy Today, 6743 Main St., Hialeah, is open 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. *Details:* (305) 817-3122.

"Shopping and dining are two



Photo by Marlene Quaroni

Michael Konig, middle, of SMK Cape Horn Development Group and his brother Sam are greeted at Miss Yip by server Marissa Medac.

of the better things in life," said Jenny Manso, vice president at M/T Truck Center. "Combining the two, **Café Ibiza** and the shops at Merrick Park is the perfect combination."

The restaurant named after a Spanish Island is in the Village of Merrick Park, home to more than 115 luxury boutiques. Enjoy live jazz Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights while sipping wine and savoring the restaurant's flavorful Mediterranean dishes from Spain, Italy, Greece, the Middle East, Morocco and France.

"It's great food, and you are sure to find something for everyone, especially now for the holidays," Ms. Manso said.

Chef and proprietor Anthony Mansillo is known for dishes such as pan-seared grouper, \$12; Greek stuffed chicken, \$10; and tuna tartine, \$9.

Café Ibiza, 370 San Lorenzo Ave, Coral Gables, is open 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. weekdays, 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturdays and noon-7 p.m. Sundays. *Details:* (305) 443-8888.

Carol Ellis-Cutler, vice president at Abood & Associates, said she visits **Chocolate Fashion**, within walking distance of Miracle Mile, where she shops at Taha and A Tisket A Tasket. The bakery-restaurant in the downtown Coral Gables corridor known as the Business Improvement Dis-

trict offers scrumptious daily specials and serves a fabulous salmon, Ms. Ellis-Cutler said.

Featured dishes include jumbo shrimp with garlic sauce and portabella mushrooms, \$8.95; chicken noodles, \$2.95; and bay grouper with mixed salad, \$8.45.

Chocolate Fashion, 248 Andalusia Ave., Coral Gables, is open 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday. *Details:* (305) 461-3200.

"The stores surrounding **Carpaccio** — a restaurant that serves the best linguine vongole, a mix of pasta and clams — is ideal when searching to find the perfect present for dad, the boss or clients," said Francesca Polanco, an associate at Burson-Marsteller.

This casual but elegant Italian restaurant offers indoor and outdoor dining with a seating capacity of 195. It is among the exclu-

sive Bal Harbour Shops, founded in 1946.

"They offer the best Italian food in the area, and the shops feature things from high-end designers to well-known department stores such as Neiman Marcus and Saks Fifth Avenue, where you can find stuff for all," Ms.

Polanco said.

Featured dishes include capellini primavera, \$11.25; Nodino, veal chop on the grill, \$24.95; and swordfish, \$8.95.

Carpaccio, 9700 Collins Ave., Bal Harbour, is open 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m. daily. *Details:* (305) 867-7777.



Francesca Polanco: Loves Italian food at Bal Harbour restaurant.



Carol Ellis-Cutler: Eats at Chocolate Fashion near Miracle Mile.

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