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TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By MIKE COHEN

THE ACQUALINA:
My family and I returned to beautiful Sunny Isles Beach, Florida recently and had the good fortune to spend some time at the fabulous Acqualina Resort & Spa. This venue has been awarded one of the highest honours in the hospitality industry, the Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star Award.

PIAZZETTA: The one of a kind Il Mulino New York Restaurant was ranked as an exceptional dining establishment while the Acqualina Spa by ESPA earned top marks as well. We had our first taste of the Piazzetta, a modern marketplace and beachfront Italian restaurant concept which trans-
(Please turn to page 14)

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TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from page 8)

ports guests to a town square set in South Florida Riviera amidst the breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean. The Tuscany-inspired marketplace and beachfront restaurant offers light dining options, bottled wines, olive oils, sauces, caviar, brick oven pizzas, crostinis, paninis, salads, meats, teas and a coffee corner boasting twenty one specialty coffees in a relaxed and inviting setting. Guests and residents get to enjoy the luxurious surroundings of Acqualina's indoor and outdoor spaces while savoring an assortment of signature dishes and offerings. Daily specials include roasted marinated chicken and grilled wild tiger shrimp. The menu is curated by Acqualina's executive chef Christopher Blum and Chef Michael Mazza of Il Mulino New York. Piazzetta at Acqualina is open to the

public Monday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

THE RESORT: The Acqualina boasts 4.5 beachfront acres with 400 feet of stunning Atlantic coastline, 188 residences, 97 impeccable guestrooms and suites, the 20,000 square-foot ESPA oceanfront spa, oceanfront restaurants, four swimming pools and an innovative marine biology-based children's AcquaMarine program. Next door construction is underway on a brand new complex called The Mansions of Acqualina.

The Acqualina is owned by the Jewish Trumps – not Donald – but brothers Jules and Eddie. For more information on Acqualina Resort & Spa on the Beach, log on to www.acqualina.com. For reservations, call 305-918-6777 or 888-804-4338.

IL MULINO: There
(Please turn to page 16)

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are a number of kosher restaurants in Sunny Isles. They include The Bissaleh Café, Miami Pita, Sabra Restaurant, Aron's Pita Hut and Ness Grill. But for fine dining

TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from page 14)

we can only recommend Il Mulino New York (www.ilmulino.com). It by far ranks as my number one dining experience anywhere each year. Renowned for its bustling and energetic atmosphere, market fresh daily specials, extensive selection of fine Italian wines and an impeccably polished wait staff, this is one of more than a dozen

(and counting) Il Mulino locations. It has already become a much sought-after establishment, frequented by both locals and visitors in the know. The 110-seat indoor restaurant spreads onto a 24-seat veranda overlooking the ocean. Service here is absolutely spectacular. Experienced Maitre 'D Tino Ponticorvo is there to greet you.

Il Mulino New York is right by the main lobby of the Acqualina. There is valet parking. The address is 17780 Collins Avenue. Be sure to make a reservation by calling 305-466-9191. You can view the menu on their website.

Mike Cohen's email address is info@mikecohen.ca. Follow his travels at www.sandboxworld.com/travel and on Twitter @mikecohencl.

We Extend Best Wishes to the STATE OF ISRAEL On its 65th Anniversary. May the year ahead bring peace and security to all in the Middle East.

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CUMMINGS CENTRE "IN THE CITY," RECENTLY held a Mothers and Others Tea Lecture and Book Signing with author and Globe and Mail columnist Deirdre Kelly. Some 50 people attended the lecture where Kelly discussed her book, "Ballerina: Sex, Scandal and Suffering Behind the Symbol of Perfection." Her revealing exposé painted a portrait of the behind-the-scenes world of ballet. Special cakes and a David's Tea bar on fine china were all the ingredients necessary for an exceptional afternoon. Door prizes and special gifts were given out to everyone who attended. Pictured from left to right are Cummings Centre Program Associate Michelle Lander, Committee Members Barbara Zavalkoff and Barbara Sabbath and Committee Chair Sandra Greenfeld.

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We Extend Best Wishes to the STATE OF ISRAEL On its 65th Anniversary. We congratulate you on your success and hope that the years ahead bring peace to the Middle East.

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