

# R I S T O R A N T E i R I C C H I



**Christianne Ricchi**  
**Owner and Executive Chef, Ristorante i Ricchi**

Christianne Ricchi, past Chairman of the Distinguished Restaurants of North America is Owner and Executive Chef of Ristorante i Ricchi, Washington D.C.

Ristorante i Ricchi was one of the first traditional Tuscan restaurants to open in the United States and it did not go unnoticed. “The triumph of i Ricchi – nowhere else in this country have I had such authentic, Tuscan food. In fact, only at a handful of Florence’s restaurants is such tradition available.” exclaimed Phyllis Richman, food critic of *The Washington Post*. Heralded by the *New York Times* as a "Florentine import and hottest restaurant in Washington" and honored by the former President of Italy as "one of the best Italian restaurants outside of Italy," they haven't looked back since. The restaurant has won dozens of awards over the years, including: Best 25 Restaurants in North America, *Food & Wine Magazine*; and Top 10 Restaurants in the US, American Academy of Restaurant Sciences.

Christianne is now on the cusp of refreshing the concept and a comprehensive brand development to include TV is planned. Simplicity will continue be the restaurant's culinary philosophy, firmly rooted in the Italian tradition of seasonality and the integrity of prime materials. The addition of small plates, an authentic Italian coffee bar and a Tuscan interior redesign will aim to attract a younger professional clientele.

Christianne is extremely active in leadership roles, both in the restaurant industry and in professional women’s groups. Most recently Christianne received a Leadership Award from The Women’s Center and also served on the committee for Women & Wine 2016 to benefit the Lombardi Cancer Center Georgetown University Hospital. Last Fall, she received one of the 2015 Women Who Mean Business Awards from the *Washington Business Journal*. She was named a “Woman Power Player” by *Nation's Restaurant News* and “Hospitality Ambassador of Washington, D.C.” by the Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington and the *Washington Post*. She was inducted into the elite National Restaurant Association Educational

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Foundation College of Diplomats. She has served on both the Board of Directors of the National Restaurant Association (NRA) as well as on the Board of its Educational Foundation. She has been active as a spokesperson for the Association on Capitol Hill, having given statements on behalf of the restaurant industry at numerous Congressional committees and at the White House. She led the launch of DC's Restaurant Week, now held twice a year, in an effort to increase restaurant business after the economic downturn that occurred following 9/11.

She is a member of the invitation-only elite International Women's Forum, she leads a Women's Club with several thousands of members and is active in DC women's leadership groups. She provides mentorship to women in business through various organizations.

In 2016, she was pleased to serve on the National Cherry Blossom Festival board of directors and held a philanthropic art event at her restaurant that was on the festival schedule. Other endeavors include: Currently serving on the Board of Riverview School, a school for learning disabled children, as well as on the Board of the College of New Rochelle, NY. She continues to develop related investments in the food and beverage industry as Executive President of Products Italia Marketing and Management Company and through her management of both Mid-Atlantic Wholesale Distributors, Inc. and the franchise development company, i Ricchi International.

## **Television Appearances and Relevant Articles**

Christianne has appeared on television multiple times. A few examples are below:

Chef Christianne makes pasta from scratch on Fox 5 (see the 8 AM story hour):

<http://www.myfoxdc.com/story/24470321/taste-of-winter-restaurant-week-in-dc#axzz2qVRSNLPH/>

Chef Christianne recommends wines made by women on Fox 5:

<http://www.myfoxdc.com/video?clipId=9912650&autostart=true#axzz2v7M6VmTB>

Fun with Food:

<http://youtu.be/k4MUzoTAycA>

Fun with Food Sizzle – TV Show Teaser:

<http://youtu.be/qVBz278laI8>

i Ricchi's New Restaurant Concept:

<http://youtu.be/vv518fcRMH8>

i Ricchi's Evolution and Future Plans:

<http://www.georgetowner.com/articles/2014/aug/20/after-25-years-christianne-ricchis-ristorante-i-ricchi-continues-thrive/>