



Penne Restaurant & Wine Bar Earns “Best Entree” Award from PHILLY COOKS! 2004

PHILADELPHIA (January 28, 2004) – University City’s **Penne Restaurant & Wine Bar** is not just Philly’s home of signature pasta dishes” – it also holds the distinction now as creator of the best entree in town.

So say such legendary chefs as Georges Perrier and Jim Coleman, two of the esteemed judges in this year’s “PHILLY COOKS!” competition. At the fourth annual charity event, Penne won top marks in the “Best Entree” category from the nationally known panel of judges for its entry, a sauteed veal tenderloin and sweet potato caramelle with gorgonzola cream, caramelized walnuts and port wine reduction prepared by Executive Chef Edward Vadden. Chef Vadden and Pasta Chef Roberta Adamo created the recipe.

“What we did with that recipe is what we do at Penne everyday. The flavors of the dish reflect the flavors of the restaurant, memorable and delicious,” says Vadden, who draws on regional traditions to create his signature dishes. “ Considering the competition we feel privileged to have won. Of course you can now find this dish on Penne’s dinner menu!”

The “Best Entree” award for the veal dish may have seemed surprising to some, considering that Penne – transformed in 2002 from the Inn at Penn’s Ivy Grille – is renowned for the fresh pastas made on-site by full-time Pasta Chef Roberta Adamo. But the restaurant’s versatility and reliance on creative specialties using top-notch ingredients clearly wowed the members of this year’s PHILLY COOKS! panel, which included some of the city’s top chefs as well as representatives from the Food Network, *Bon Appetit* and *Saveur Magazine*.

Since its inception in August 2002, Penne has earned critical acclaim for its innovative approach to dining. Guests of the restaurant can sit at a nearby table and watch the pasta-making process from start to finish. Another unique offering are Penne’s much-touted “wine flights” – trios of wines sampled from particular wine-growing regions of Italy.

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However it was Penne's main course that stole the show at PHILLY COOKS!, presented by *Philadelphia Magazine* and NBC-10. In just four years, the event has become a "must-do" for chefs, restaurants and food lovers. More than 1,200 people converged at the Philadelphia Marriott on January 14 to check out the diverse talents of the region's culinary community while raising \$35,000 for MANNA, a volunteer-based organization that provides nearly 2,000 meals each day to more than 700 people living with AIDS throughout the region.

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