

Piola

3.12.10

World-traveled pizzeria lands in Atlanta

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Being an international traveling hub, ATL welcomes many out-of-towners, from the fans who came for the Olympics, to Zaza, who it turns out is not in fact a Budapest-born police-slapping nonagenarian. Bringing a well-stamped pizza passport to Midtown, Piola.

Started in NE Italy before setting up in Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and Miami, Piola's a playfully decked pizza parlor serving 40+ brick oven pies, **pastas, and more** in an 80-seat space boasting a white marble bar with multicolored ostrich-skin stools, upside-down-pitcher-looking plastic light fixtures, red -backlit banquettes, and a gray wall etched with stick-figure-esque carvings of people, thoughtfully not featuring their sticks. Start with antipasti like Linosa (avocado, shrimp & pink sauce), or the Italia Unita w/ mozzarella, Parmesan, bread & sun-ripened apricots; pizza's 12" mozzarella-covered thin crusters like the Mantova (sliced raw beef, Brie, arugula, fresh tomatoes...), the smoked salmon/ricotta/parsley Rimini, or the Merano, with zucchini and Italian Speck ham -- unlike other prosciutti, it's "boned before curing", which proves that you're not the only pig that likes to live dangerously. There're specialty pies like the white-sauced Lipsia (shrimp, broccoli, garlic, fresh tomatoes), or the spicy salami-topped Neapolitana Pompei, while there're also pastas like Fusilli Bianco Verde (chicken, broccoli, cream, Parmesan) and hearty meals **including breaded** beef cutlets, pan-seared tuna steak, and a chicken breast roll (try that on for size, Shaun White!!!)

For your imbibing pleasure, they've got bottled beers (Peroni, Stella, Corona...), wines, and mixed drinks like Caipirinhas or Kiwi Caipiroskas; dessert includes profiteroles and tiramisu made w/ Mascarpone cream, coffee, cocoa powder, and oval-shaped cookies known as "lady fingers" -- tell Zaza that he shoots like his hands are made of them, and he'll slap you like you just pulled him over for speeding.

They've also got all-you-can-eat Gnocchi for \$15 every 29th day of the month, and free happy hour snacks every weekday from 5-8pm as long as you have a drink. Get all the rest of the story at Piola.it.