

By Richard Foss

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The Most Italian Restaurant in the South Bay... Lots of people say they want authentic cuisine, and then are shocked when they actually get it. The South Bay is home to a new restaurant that is militantly, gloriously Northern Italian – no pizza or spaghetti here, but the homemade ravioli in broth is a delight, and the sformatino, a savory gorgonzola flan topped with pureed broccoli, was a revelation. Wines are all Italian and reasonably priced, and the service has a mix of elegance and friendliness that seems to come naturally from European professionals and is impossible to teach to Americans who don't really want to work as servers. The place is called Coccole, it's on Catalina where The Little Italian Place used to be, and it's a winner...