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Issue No: 357

**New York's  
Newest  
Head Chef!**



# NEWS FROM NEW YORK



By Birdy Hartman Hall

Bryce called last night with two bits of amazing news! First of all, guess who's the NEW Executive Chef at one of New York's finest Restaurants (or soon to be finest, once Chef Bryce works his magic). Yes! Our, one and only, Chef Bryce Sorem, has joined the team of Rubirosa in New York City! We are so proud of him and can't wait to get to see him in action as he transforms this spot into a hotspot!



But that is not all. Rumor has it that their offer has been accepted on a new home in Ridgewood, New Jersey. It is a cute colonial with tons of upgrades. It has a covered porch with wainscoting. It has french doors, glistening hardwood floors, built in china cabinets, stacked stone fireplace, and fresh kitchen appliances for our Chef Bryce to do his magic in. The kitchen has white cabinets and rich black granite countertops. He's going to be looking good in his new home. It has three bedrooms and two bathrooms with a finished basement. Plenty of room to house all of the Riel's that want to visit NYC.

We are so happy for Bridget and Bryce. They are making dreams come true with the help of their good luck charm Kieran. Life is good in the Sorem world!

The story at Rubirosa remains the same - two guys named Angelo are responsible for it, one whose family owns a legendary pizza place in Staten Island, and the other a once well-known doorman at The Beatrice Inn. They are now more famous for Rubirosa's vodka sauce pizza than either of those two biographical facts, and for good reason. It's one of the best pies in New York City, and you definitely need to make a trip here just to eat it. But one of the things we love most about this restaurant is that it's not a one trick pony. This isn't just a pizza joint. This is a real Italian restaurant with ridiculously good food, from the antipasti to the pasta to the rainbow cookies at the end of the meal. It's Perfect For Date Night, great for Dinner With The Parents, and there's even an extensive gluten-free menu that they've had since the day they opened.

As it stands today, the only difference between Rubirosa and some of New York's most classic Italian restaurants is time. I guarantee you that when we dig up the capsule again 40 years from now, this place will still be on Mulberry Street.

## Food Rundown



### Vodka Pizza

This is why you come to Rubirosa. A perfect pie with paper thin crust, amazing vodka sauce, and fresh mozzarella. So incredibly good.

### Ricotta Ravioli

A perfect, simple ravioli stuffed with ricotta. The pasta portions are huge, so beware. Go big if you want, but you're going to be really full.



**Duck & Carmelized Onion Bruschetta**  
An excellent thing to go along with all that pizza.  
Sweet and savory in all the right places. Get this.



**Roasted Octopus**  
Tender and flavorful like it should be. This is on our table almost every time we visit.





# Rubirosa




Pizza, Italian | Nolita | \$\$\$

This paean to all things red sauce was opened by members of the family behind Staten Island's famous Joe & Pat's.

 [235 Mulberry St., New York, NY, 10012](#)

 [212-965-0500](tel:212-965-0500)

 <http://www.rubirosanyc.com>

 [Reserve a table](#)

## KNOWN FOR

- [Where to Eat Soul-Warming Lasagna in New York City Right Now](#)
- [The Absolute Best Chicken Parm in New York](#)

[lunch >](#)

[brunch >](#)

[hot spot >](#)

[take-out >](#)

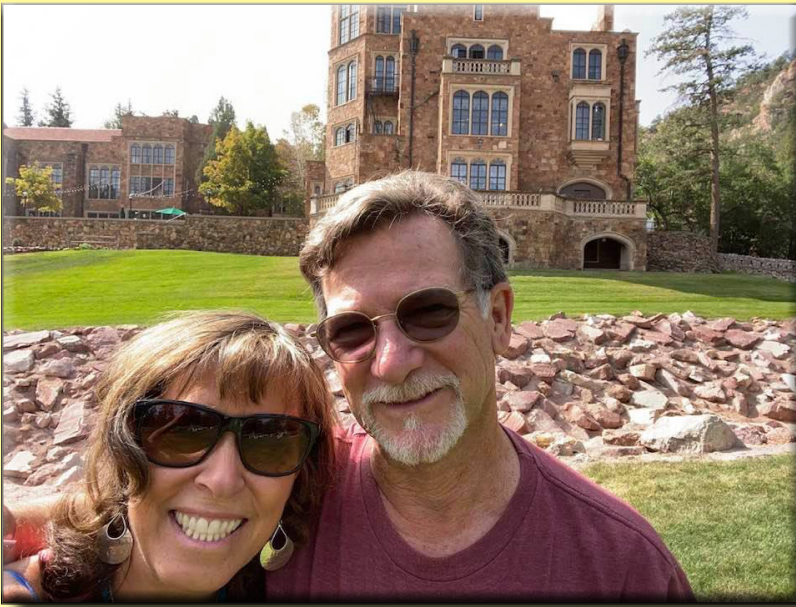
[bar scene >](#)

[dine at the bar >](#)

[online ordering >](#)

## THE LOWDOWN

Even if Little Italy's best days are behind it, Rubirosa keeps the spirit alive. The owners are members of the Staten Island pizza royalty behind Joe & Pat's, and its late founder was the son of the eponymous Joe. Think of this dimly lit and narrow downtown restaurant as a nouveau, populist paean to all things red sauce. The pizza is made in the formula of Joe & Pat's, where the thin-crust, vodka-sauce-topped pies are some of the city's best. It's just the start, though. There's a top-tier chicken parm with ostentatiously applied mozzarella, along with other classics of the Italian-American genre like baked clams, housemade pastas including spaghetti with meatballs, and a textbook lasagna. — CHRIS CROWLEY



# Our trip to



By Birdy Hartman Hall

To Travel or not to Travel...that is the question on everyone's minds. We have been in Covid hell for 6 months now and everyone is feeling the tension. Is it safe to go outside? Is it safe to eat outside? Is it safe to shop outside? We are all feeling the fear and yet, we all want our lives to get back on track again.

Lyle decided that he wanted to go to his September ASFA meetings in Denver. At first, I said, "No way!" Then he showed me this beautiful new hotel, called the Gaylord, that we would be staying in. Hmm...my resolve weakened. Then he told me that we could even tag on an extra few days and go into Colorado Springs to stay at the Broadmoor. Ugh.... That did me in. I have always dreamed at staying at the Broadmoor. So, we donned our masks and our anti-bacterial soaps to head to the dreaded airports. San Diego's airport was not that crowded, and I felt pretty good about being able to protect ourselves before we got to Denver. Once we landed, my anxiety level went very low. Denver's Covid cases are way down, and their restrictions are much less than San Diego. They have restaurants that are open for inside dining, but they are still working at a reduced rate of folks. The Gaylord hotel was beautiful. It featured a tri-level pool with a lazy river. And it had a mini golf course which Lyle and I made good use of as we battled it out using our putting skills. I kept up with Lyle with our 38 holes but in the end, he got me! It was fun though!

The highlight for me was that I got to spend the day with Bruce's brother Mike, my sister in law Keri and their son Luke. We had not seen each other for several years, and it was so wonderful to have them to myself for an entire day. I got to see their Denver home and we went for a lovely picnic lunch at a nearby park filled with beautiful bronze statues. Each piece of art was donated by the artist and is lovingly cared for by a neighbor that adopts the statue. I thought that was such a sweet way to maintain the beauty of this park.



If I lived there, I would love to be the caretaker for one of the unique pieces that made this park so special. Mike and Keri then returned me to the Gaylord and Lyle joined us for a lovely dinner. I want to thank Mike, Keri, and Luke for taking the time out of their lives to hang out with me. That is a memory I will cherish!



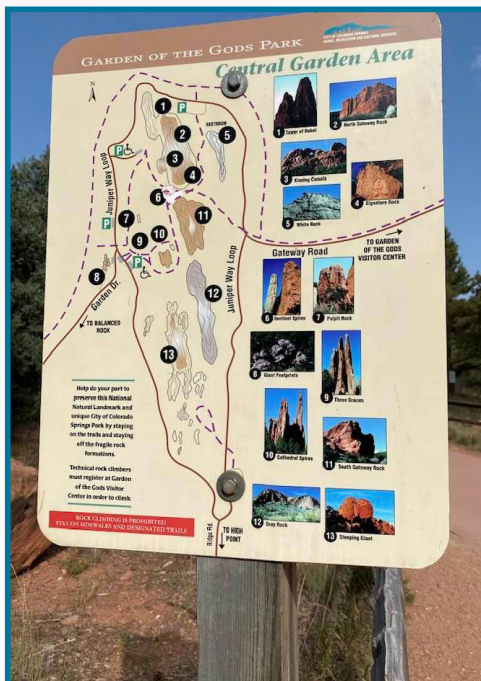
Once Lyle's meetings were over, it was on to the Broadmoor. Listy and Bob had a family wedding anniversary at that hotel many years ago. When I saw the pictures, I knew this was a place I would love to visit. The Broadmoor did not disappoint me in the least. The hotel itself is framed by the Rocky Mountains and is quite expansive. It has a beautiful lake that encircles their property. We enjoyed many lunches and dinners sitting by that lake. It reminded both Lyle and me of our time in St. Moritz, Switzerland. If only someone would have greeted us in French or German, I would have sworn we had somehow teleported to a distant land.



Besides being a 5-star hotel, the Broadmoor is also known for the Seven Falls which is Colorado's most captivating natural wonder. These falls are situated in a 1,250 foot-wall box canyon between the towering "Pillars of Hercules." Now everyone loves a good hike, and I am always up for a challenge. However, when I saw the 224-step staircase that I had to climb in order to enjoy the upper hikes above the falls, I was a little nervous. For a girl that hates heights, climbing up that canyon wall took the nerve of Hercules for sure. But Lyle was patient and let me go at my own, out of breath speed. I have to say that hiking and new elevations sure do not make for lungs full of air.



After I recovered from that heart pumping hike, we decided to visit the magical Garden of the Gods. There we saw towering sandstone rock formations jutting out of the ground like they were skyscrapers. We both walked in total awe as we rounded each corner, and a new formation was spied. Mother nature never lets you down when you are in the mountains.





We also took a trolley type (open aired and very Covid friendly) bus to the top of Pikes Peak. The views that we got to enjoy as we rode to the top were stunning. We saw some cute Yellow-bellied Marmots (the largest member of the squirrel family) and some majestic White tailed deer's. The ride up and back gave us an opportunity to learn more about Colorado Springs and definitely made us both want to return for another visit. So, if you are looking for a great escape, you love the mountains and a good hike...Colorado Springs is a great place to be!



# Hats On, Thanks to Kristy and Annie



Ready to show some holiday spirit? Trying to amp up your next event? Looking for the perfect accessory to your poolside mimosa? Just don't feel like washing your hair? Get #dekt with us!

We are so excited to officially announce the launch of our hat line, Dekt SD. We invite you to get #dekt for your life.

Message us to place your order or email us at [dektsd@gmail.com](mailto:dektsd@gmail.com). All hats are \$21.99, but we will take 15% off your first hat! Custom orders upon request. Thank you for your support of our #unnecessarynecessities. Be sure to like and follow our page!





New hats Brian Riel and I ordered! Customizable and comfy order yours at Dekt or on Instagram @dekt.sd

Check out these snazzy hats that my nieces made. They started their own business called #dekt. We have group golf lessons with our high school friends and decided that these hats were a great way to begin the fun of golfing with our besties from a lifetime of memories! Want to ramp up your get togethers? Get #dekt! Just go to Dekt SD They are super fun and you get to personalize them with anything your heart desires!!





# MY FIRST 24-HOURS LEMONS RACE



By Birdy Hartman Hall

On your mark, get set, go! Hello racing fans. This is Aunt Birdy reporting from the middle of nowhere, CA attending her first 24-hour Lemons race. Let me set the record straight. Buttonwillow, CA is not a place that you need to put on your trip-o-meter unless your name is Lyle Hall, and you have a need for speed. There is very little else in Buttonwillow, other than a racetrack that allows old reconditioned cars to be raced around for 2 days.... not for 24 hours straight as the name might have you think.



Their car was known as the Sake Bomber and was painted a sunrise red and white pattern (looked more like a candy cane to me but what do I know?) The car was a first generation 1979 Mazda RX-7. All I could tell you is that it was little, had no leather seats and NO air conditioning! But I can give you some exciting stats (if you are racing fan) from the weekend. The car was running for 13 of the 14.5 hours of race time (not including the pit stops). They did 245 laps and covered 760 miles. They stayed pretty much in the middle of the pack as racers go.



The thrill for us in the audience was to sit in a chair by the fence as the car would go whizzing by at a speed that I would rather not drive. I liked giving the cars my own personal name. There was Big Bird, The Hulk, Patches, Bird S\*\*t (it had a bird on top and white splotches everywhere), Checkered, Red Hot...just to name a few.

I was also entertained by an app that showed how fast Lyle or his team completed each lap without getting hurt or hurting the car. At one point, the alternator failed but luckily another racer had a spare. And racing people help each other out- Isn't that nice? So, the car was back out doing its racing thing in no time.

The racing team was very nice to me. There were 5 other guys and together, they created a team of go faster guys. Each person had their expertise. All of them seemed to know their way around a car and how to make it speed faster than the snap of my neck could go. I would say that the weekend was a big success because

1. No one got hurt
2. The car still runs
3. The team has already signed up for the next race

The next race is a little more enticing to me. We will be in Sonoma, CA. Yahoo! So Lyle will add in an extra day of vacationing to take me wine tasting. Now we are talking fun! Anyone want to join us?



<b>WHAT IS 24 HOURS OF LEMONS?</b>	An endurance car racing series on dedicated road courses for \$500 cars.
<b>WHAT'S A \$500 CAR?</b>	It's a car bought and track-prepped for \$500 or less (not including safety equipment, brakes, and wheels/tires).
<b>DO \$500 CARS REALLY EXIST?</b>	Absolutely. See a \$1000 car on Craigslist? Bring \$400 cash and a 12er of Old Milwaukee. Nine times out of ten, you'll be driving it home.
<b>WHAT CARS ARE ELIGIBLE?</b>	Pretty much any four-wheeled machine that was street-legal when made and passes our safety inspection today. Smog, insurance, or title aren't required.
<b>WHAT IF I SPENT MORE THAN \$500?</b>	If our judges decide you spent over the \$500 limit, they can assign negative laps to your standings. Your cheaty-ass Spec Miata will still start the race when the green drops—it just may be working Lap -629.
<b>WHAT KIND OF SPECIAL CAR RACING EQUIPMENT IS NEEDED?</b>	Cars need a legal 6-point or better cage, a race seat, race belts, an onboard fire suppression system, a kill switch, and either a 100% stock fuel system or pro-quality fuel cell. Drivers need a legal helmet, head-and-neck restraint, and fire-resistant suit/gloves/shoes. See the <a href="#">Rules</a> to get the particulars.
<b>HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?</b>	If you want to go wheel-to-wheel car racing, it doesn't get much cheaper. Entry fees are <a href="#">listed here</a> . You can borrow the safety gear from a teammate, or rent it from various online vendors, or <a href="#">buy a full set from us</a> . Sleeping bags, gas, bologna sandwiches, and car-building costs vary hugely. There are great threads about cage costs, and fab shops on the Lemons <a href="#">Forum</a> .
<b>CAN I MODIFY THE CAR?</b>	Unless it puts you afoul of a safety rule, any mod is allowed. Just remember, it'll count toward the build total, so be ready to talk price with the judges. Absurd non-performance enhancing mods are usually exempted: Don't lose sleep about penalty laps incurred for the costs of putting a Suzuki Sidekick inside a pop-top camp trailer or a Dodge slant-6 in your E30 BMW.
<b>WHERE CAN I GET ANSWERS AND HELP?</b>	Hit the <a href="#">Lemons Forum</a> to learn from other racers. See the Lemons <a href="#">Registration Help</a> page for help getting signed up. Look at the <a href="#">How to Not Fall Tech</a> guide for car-safety questions, and the Lemons <a href="#">Rulebook</a> for everything else. And if that doesn't do it, just <a href="#">drop us a line</a> .
<b>DO I NEED PRIOR CAR RACING TRAINING OR EXPERIENCE?</b>	Nope — just a valid street driver's license. Who thought car racing would be so easy?
<b>IS EVERYONE PART OF A TEAM?</b>	Yep — all 24 Hours of Lemons entries have at least two drivers and any number of crew members. Car racing takes a village. Or, at least you and a buddy.



# FAMILY SHORTS



## This girl is FIRE. - For real!

Boxing is next level grit. This woman can throw a mean right hook and turn “kicking butt” into a full fledged sweat fest!! Chavva joined us from YMCA and brought with her some really impressive fitness credentials. You know what’s even more impressive about this woman?! She is a mom of 3 young children and manages to keep her fitness regimen in check. Thanks to SSoD, she now can workout from home in between naps, snacks, jungle gym climbs and the chaos of 3 kids under the age of 7. Whoa!

Chavva’s background in boxing & kickboxing goes wayyyy back! She had this to share with us.

“Being the competitive person that I am, in my early 20’s I thought it would be fun to learn how to box and after a few years of training I began to fight competitively. Once I stopped competing, I continued to help train younger fighters as well as teaching group boxing/kickboxing classes for adults and children.”

AND, thanks to Chavva, you now have access to some fierce and ferocious full body boxing workouts! Find yourself punching, kicking, sweating and stress relieving your way straight through the SSoD library!



Happy 22nd birthday to this magical human! He really is the nicest, hardest working, most earnest, and genuine person. So proud of this amazing man