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Villagio Pizzeria Voted “People’s Choice”

The people have spoken, and better yet, they have voted. So Omaha’s once, best-kept secret – thanks to area pizza aficionados – is secret no more.

For the fifth year in a row, Villagio Pizzeria has been awarded “People’s Choice,” in the 11th Annual Omaha’s Largest Pizza Review, held recently at the Waiting Room and Reverb Lounge in Benson.

The event is presented by Food & Spirits Magazine, with a portion of the proceeds helping provide scholarships for culinary students at the Institute for the Culinary Arts at Metro Community College, some of whom were on hand to help serve the pizza. The scholarships are provided through the Omaha Chapter of the American Culinary Federation.

As in years past, pizza from 10 to 15 different pizza restaurants were specially prepared for pizza lovers to sample and vote for their favorites. Judging was also conducted by Food & Spirits Magazine’s panel of judges.

And the winner, Villagio’s Sweet Chili Chicken Pizza, isn’t even a toss up, according to the many loyal customers, who consistently give this casual, Northwest Omaha Italian restaurant rave reviews.

“Sweet Chili Chicken Pizza is probably the best pizza I’ve ever had,” wrote one out-of-towner. “Really!! The perfect combination of sweet, spicy, creamy and meaty!! Braided crust is like no other I’ve had. This pizza won the Best of Omaha competition I believe, and is definitely worthy of the award. I know I’ll crave his pizza when I go back home.”

“The Sweet Chili Chicken Pizza is a must try!!!,” wrote another.

Or simply put, “Mmmmm ... Sweet Chicken Chili Calzone ...”

And the secret ingredient, Manager Debbie Stuart, who co-owns the restaurant with Tim Stuart, and creates many original recipes, helping perfect everything from pizza, pasta, battered and fried pickles, desserts, and their own special buffalo-chicken and spinach-artichoke dips.

“Every pizza is made to order. We start off with our homemade dough, and prepare with your choice of regular or braided crust. We add our own recipe pizza sauce made with ripe plum tomatoes, basil and garlic. We top off each pizza with our house-blend cheese. We also offer a gluten-free crust,” she said.

But that’s only part of their recipe for success. The family-run restaurant, known for its customer service and home-like atmosphere, also stages a variety of special events – from Family Karaoke Night, Little Chef Birthday Parties, with make your own pizza and pin the pepperoni on the pizza, to catered events.

Or, as Santa, who made an appearance in one of their clever promo clips, said, “Where else can you find a camel, some donkeys (found grazing in the patio area) and the best pizza in Omaha,” during a holiday event.

Open for lunch and dinner, Villagio is located at 6922 N. 102nd Circle. To learn more, call the restaurant at (402) 502-4400, visit them on Facebook at [facebook.com/villagiopizzeria](https://www.facebook.com/villagiopizzeria) or contact Debbie Stuart at villagiopizzeria2@gmail.com or Tim Stuart at tstuart@vkge.com or (402) 575-8387.