



FIVE-STAR AWARD PRESENTATION ABRUZZO TRADITION WITH A MODERN FLAIR

Under the soft glow of Waltham's Moody Street, Vinotta stood out at the center of celebration as the prestigious Five-Star Diamond Award was formally presented to Chef and Owner Dante Bellucci. The evening was a fusion of culinary mastery, timeless Italian tradition, and the warmth of a community gathered to honor one of its finest.

Distinguished guests, civic leaders, and loyal patrons joined the Vinotta team as the honor was bestowed; a recognition reserved only for the world's most exceptional in the hospitality industry. Cameras flashed as Chef Bellucci proudly held the Star Diamond plaque, surrounded by his beloved partner/manager Carol Perris and dedicated kitchen brigade, an award that symbolizes the passion and precision that defines every plate leaving Vinotta's kitchen.



AAHS Executive Vice-President Kevin Dunn & AAHS President Emma Cinque presenting Vinotta Executive Chef/Owner Dante Bellucci with the Prestigious Five-Star Diamond Award



Carol Perris, Mayor of Waltham Jeannette A. McCarthy, and Chef Dante Bellucci



Carol Perris, Chef Dante Bellucci, Adrianna & Tony Selvaggio



Chef Dante Bellucci along with AHS President Emma Cinque



North End Restaurateur Frank DePasquale and Chef Dante Bellucci



Freshly Caught Oysters from Maine!



Left to Right: Barry Segel Co-Owner of Mr. Sid est. 1967 Luxury Men's Clothing Store in Newton Centre, Dr. Vincent J. Morgan – Bicon Implant Dentistry, Chef Dante Bellucci, Stuart Segel Co-Owner of Mr. Sid



**The Incredible Power Couple Duo!!!!
Dante Bellucci & Carol Perris**



Chef Dante Bellucci and Founder & President of Access Italy Angelo Amorico



Chef Dante Bellucci and Erwin & Roberta Schaffer



Gianfranco Zaccai (former President of Accademia Italiana della Cucina, Boston) with Chef Dante Bellucci



Chef Dante Bellucci & Prof. Ed and Karen Marram

The award ceremony was more than an accolade; it was a moment of unity. The Vinotta staff—dressed proudly and stood shoulder to shoulder with their leader, embodying the spirit of dedication and teamwork that has elevated the restaurant into the national spotlight.

For Waltham, the evening marked another jewel in the city's vibrant dining scene. For Vinotta, it was validation of an unwavering commitment to excellence, hospitality, and the art of fine dining.



STAR DIAMOND AWARD RECIPIENT CHEF DANTE BELLUCCI

Chef Dante's journey began in 1979 in his hometown of Pescara, Abruzzo, where he first mastered the flavors and techniques of traditional Italian cuisine. Chef Bellucci came to the US by invitation in 1997 from the Les Marino family to be the head Chef of Marino's Restaurant, North Cambridge.

Over the years, Chefs love for travel and food has shaped a style that honors his Abruzzo's rustic roots while embracing global influences.

From leading acclaimed restaurants like Tartufo in Newton to consulting for some of Boston's finest kitchens, Chef Dante's culinary legacy continues to flourish. Since 2020, Vinotta has been a beloved gathering place for the Waltham community — welcoming longtime regulars and new patrons alike with warmth, flavor, and artistry.

