

Panzano

-- City's Best

Old world dining in the heart of downtown.

Restaurant

Editor: ★★★★★
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 Hotel Monaco
 Denver, CO 80202

0.40 Miles Away

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From the Editors

Elegance best describes the ambience at this old world eatery. Italian paintings hang on the rustic walls and the dark wood tones foster a cozy atmosphere. A private wine cellar can be reserved for parties up to 50, making a large gathering more intimate and unique. Contemporary Northern Italian specialties adorn Panzano's menu, creations that you can't find anywhere near Denver.

Take a seat on the stool facing the kitchen to view the staff at work while munching on artisan breads baked fresh on site. For starters the Gamberi con Pancetta, consisting of pancetta-wrapped shrimp, Cambozola polenta, grilled radicchio and porcini broth, is a tasty favorite. Four unique pizzas, another great way to start a meal, are also on the menu.

One of the mouth-watering dishes Panzano is known for is the Gnocchi con Cappa Santa, made with homemade gnocchi, grilled sea scallops, oven-roasted tomatoes, nicoise olives and grilled zucchini with a lemon olive oil broth. For a lighter lunch sample the Linguine con Pollo e Gorgonzola Linguini pasta, a dish filled with grilled chicken breast, rapini, garlic and tomatoes in a Gorgonzola cream sauce. The wine list is also very Italian; sample reds and whites served by the glass, half bottle and bottle.

Italian cuisine is always topped off best with a rich dessert like tiramisu. Panzano has a delightful list of dolci, and if it is too hard to choose then simply order the Selezione Del Giorno, a medley of desserts selected daily. -- *Laura Finney* (Photo: Courtesy of Panzano)

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