

For Immediate Release
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Cornells in Little Italy Re-opens Friday, January 28:
Schenectady's Iconic Restaurant Once Again Vibrant Fixture in Little Italy

Schenectady, New York, January 26, 2022 — Expect an elevated dining experience when Schenectady's Cornells in Little Italy re-opens on Friday, January 28. Cornells will offer old favorites such as their famous house-made cavatelli, chicken livers, and Veal Raphael, with some new delights on the menu as well with fresh winter truffles, Berkshire Heritage pork, an elevated steak and seafood experience, and an entire menu of single malt whiskeys to enhance the Cornells Experience (yes, we created our own noun). The venue will be open Thursdays 4pm-9pm; Friday and Saturday 4pm-10pm and Sundays 3pm-8pm for now with expanded hours of operation to follow. Cornells is also available for private events on any day of the week.

Maria Perreca Papa, of neighboring Perreca's Bakery and MORE Perreca's Italian Kitchen, purchased Cornells in late 2021 and immediately reached out to the staff laid-off at the beginning of the pandemic. "It was important for me to put these loyal professionals back to work in the restaurant they love so much," says Papa, "but before I even did that, I needed the blessing of Joanne. So that was my first phone call." Joanne Aragosa is the daughter of Cornells founders.

Cornells has always been a family-owned restaurant and its current owner is eager to carry on that tradition: started nearly 80 years ago by Nicholas and Pasqualina Cornell in 1943 when it was located on Van Vranken Avenue, their daughter, Joanne Aragosa moved the restaurant to its current location in Schenectady's Little Italy in 2003 installing her son, James "Jimmy" Cogna as executive chef. "It was only through a series of medical set-backs that Jimmy had to step down from that position," explains Aragosa, "but his mainstays such as the Veal Raphael remain a staple of the menu to this day."

Today's Cornells in Little Italy menu offers all the old favorites that guests have come to associate with the restaurant, as well as the option to splurge on some new and elevated dishes. Cornells in Little Italy is located at 39 N Jay Street in Schenectady. Reservations can be made by calling the restaurant at 518-630-5002.

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