## Café Bagel

So Much More Than Bagels... Where Old-World Traditions Are a Way of Life

> WRITTEN BY JOY FREEMAN VENICE GULF COAST LIVING MAGAZINE

ami Circa, who manages his family-owned business, is proud of the Old World and family traditions that he says make Café Bagel so special. Sami grew up and lived in both Brooklyn, New York, and New Jersey, undisputed bastions of bagel mavens. When he was a teenager, he began apprenticing with his uncle, a master baker who

adhered to "Old World" timely traditions and recipes. There, he says, "I learned that excellence is not an accident. We don't cut

corners. We take our time to ensure that we produce the kind of superior product that you can be proud to offer to your customers, family, and friends."

Shortly after Sami moved to Florida to be close to his parents, an opportunity presented itself that he and his uncle could not resist. When Café Bagel was purchased in 2019, Sami and his uncle set to work creating a menu; training staff to cook, serve, and bake in the timehonored traditions that were so important to Sami; and incorporating his uncle's fifty years of incredible professional knowledge and skills.

Sami shares, "Everything on the menu is cooked and prepared to order. The bagel preparation and baking process takes 24 to 36 hours. Only the finest ingredients are used to create authentic bagels that

fulfill those longings inspired by fond memories of those delectable bagels that are so special to anyone who has tasted them in New York City and its environs. I take pride particularly in letting people know that absolutely no chemicals, bleached flours, or additives are ever used in any preparation."

Visitors are always amazed at the large selection of bagels and are often surprised and delighted to find house-made hard











(Kaiser) rolls available for purchase at the bakery counter as well as for sandwiches. Sami says, "Café Bagel is so much more than bagels. We have a full breakfast and lunch menu, counter, table, and to-go service. Folks from New Jersey love the Taylor Pork Roll breakfast sandwich that is a New Jersey classic."

Sami is effusive in praising his employees, taking tremendous pride in pointing out that he has a wonderful staff. He shares, "My uncle and I have tried to create an atmosphere where everyone can be proud of what they are preparing and serving. Because of that and our great working atmosphere, we offer excellent, friendly, and warm customer service." He also mentions that he and his family are communityconscious and donate food and supplies to homeless organizations and churches.

Sami further highlights that they have a very loyal customer base. He shares, "Once people visit Café Bagel, they almost always return soon afterward, often bringing friends or family members with them. Stop in and try us for yourself, and you'll soon be back for more."

For more information about this advertorial, call Sami Circa at 941.493.2095 or log on to CafeBagelOnline.com. Located at 1811 South Tamiami Trail in Venice, Café Bagel is open 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily. Ample parking is available.

> Photos on the opp. page and the top photo on this page by Kelli Tindall. Food photos on this page provided by Cafe Bagel.



