



(From L): Marco Scognamiglio, Enzo Scognamiglio and Peppe Rivera

Next Generation Italian Tradition at Brio Tuscany Grille

By Jody Robinson

My husband and I went to Italy on our honeymoon. We tried to meet as many locals as possible, especially in a few of the smaller towns we visited, because they could give us the best recommendations.

We've found that same experience to be somewhat rare back in the States, though we have our own favorites in South OC. Brio Tuscany Grille is one of those. Enzo Scognamiglio and Peppe Rivera have operated the absolutely iconic Dana Point restaurant for over twenty years. Somehow, they have managed to keep the family-run business fresh for its patrons, even after all this time, and now, they're stepping into the next chapter and extending the family tree over the restaurant a little bit more.

Welcoming Marco Scognamiglio to the team solidifies Brio Tuscany Grille in South Orange County's cadre of family run businesses. Catering to locals and caring for the internal team is about as clear a mission as one can pursue in the restaurant industry, and Marco couldn't be more excited to follow in his father's footsteps.

"It's been my home away from home," he says. "I grew up with the restaurant, the granite bar, smell of the wood fired oven. I even learned how to ride a motorcycle in the alley

out back." It's a part of my heritage, he notes later on: and the partnership couldn't have come at a better time. "We're open, we're ready to serve the public and welcome our beloved customers into this newfound synergy."

No small feat, driving energy into a longstanding business. "Some of the team have been with us for 25 years or more, watching me grow up." Keeping the classics classics, and innovating around everything else has become synonymous with Brio. Craft cocktails and live entertainment round out a generational approach to the business, "and if we're lucky, we'll be serving pasta, insalata and zuppe for 25 more years." Turns out you don't have to go all the way to Italy for a small town taste with big flavor.



Marco as a young boy with his father and Peppe.

Brio Tuscany Grille
24050 Camino del Avion
Dana Point
(949) 443-1476