

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Goodfellas brings Hollywood to Corona

By Deborah Gulliard

Goodfellas, on Lincoln Avenue and Pomona Road, just north of the 91 freeway, is unexpectedly a little taste of Classic Hollywood. Beautifully designed by the owners, John and George Tsarouhas, its walls feature photographs and paintings of old Hollywood stars.

"We chose this motif because we like that era," says John. "It's legendary and hard to find now."

John and George came to Southern California from Greece in the 1980s to work in their uncle's restaurant. When John was only 23 and George was 18, they bought their first restaurant in Perris, a burned-out hamburger fast-food restaurant. Within six months they had waits of up to one and a half hours for in-house service and long lines for the drive-thru, making them the envy of all other hamburger joints in town and landing them on local TV and radio. Their secret was huge portions, including a four-patty hamburger, quality ingredients and appetizing food.

Seven years later, they left Perris to be closer to family in Santa Fe Springs and opened Goodfellas Hamburgers, which was also a huge success, and 10 years later they decided they wanted to move away from fast food and chose Corona as a good location for their new restaurant.

"John is a perfectionist," says his wife, Cathy. "It took him five months to get the restaurant designed and decorated; he and his brother decided on every detail themselves."

The restaurant is in fact very attractive

Below, Cathy, George and John Tsarouhas at their new restaurant Goodfellas. At right, large portions are the rule.

Photos by Jim Dorsey Photography

