



Nonno Crupi's Pizza

BY ALISON SCOWCROFT PHOTOS BY ROBERT PITOUR



I think we are all very grateful for restaurants that have stayed open during COVID-19, especially for those offering take-out. At first it was great fun being in the kitchen at home and cooking. Didn't take long for that to become tiresome! Luckily we have Nonno Crupi's Pizza, just a short distance away.

I met with the owner Anthony Mahmoodi to learn a little more about our favourite local pizza place. Anthony got into the business in 1989, working with his mom at the original Crupi's Pizza in Markham, just off McCowan. His mom was a partner in that location and Anthony worked there for 17 years. Having earned his chef's diploma from George Brown College he worked at Il Fornello learning the business from the ground up. They sold Crupi's Pizza in Markham, along with the name, which led Anthony to buy an old church in Ballantrae in 2009. He renovated it and opened Nonno Crupi's.

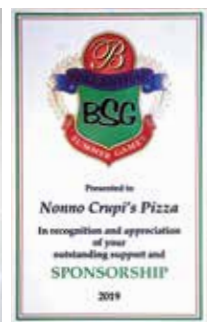
Anthony and Francesco Ferraro, his chef and a friend for over 25 years, create all their wonderful dishes. His mom and his wife, Cindy, also help out when it's busy.

Everything is fresh, including the pizza dough, the sauce and the pasta. The mozzarella they use is 100% mozzarella, a real luxury in the pizza business. The pizza is baked in a stone oven that creates that wonderful crispy crust. Besides pizza, the take-out menu includes calzones, veal on a bun, chicken wings, and Greek and Caesar salads.

When Anthony renovated the old church he also installed a kitchen in the basement allowing them an opportunity to do catering. They make wonderful lasagna, great for feeding a crowd, but I also learned they will do their best to accommodate most catering

requests, such as chicken Parmesan, pasta a la vodka, porchetta, rice balls and meatballs. Most of their trays feed 15 to 20 people and can be ready with about two days' notice.

Nonno Crupi's is busiest at lunch and on Fridays and Saturdays. It's nothing for them to make 250 pizzas daily on the weekend. They deliver free to Ballantrae on orders over \$20 which is great when you get that craving for a delicious pizza or calzone.



Nonno Crupi's Pizza
15102 Hwy. 48,
Whitchurch-Stouffville
905-642-8300

Hours of Business
Tuesday to Thursday:
11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday:
12 noon to 8 p.m.
Closed Mondays.