

## Romantic Gifts & Getaways

### Romance Runs Rampant at Prego Ristorante

**T**his Valentine's Day, Prego Ristorante Executive Chef Ugo Allesina is offering lovers a four-course dinner, complete with a Grand Marnier Molten Chocolate Cappuccino Mousse Cake dessert, for \$64.95 per guest or \$120 per couple (excludes tax & gratuity). This special menu will be offered in addition to the restaurant's regular dinner menu on Thursday, February 14.

Reservations are strongly recommended by calling 949.553.1333.

Prego has all that one could wish for in a fine Italian restaurant; an elegant, yet comfortable atmosphere, attentive service and cuisine that strikes the perfect balance between traditional authenticity and innovative preparations. It's the perfect setting in which to enjoy good conversation and feast on the best cuisine that Italy has to offer.



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Adding a splash of Mediterranean color to California, Prego's ambience blends the warmth and rustic charm of old-world Italy with the electricity and vibrance of a cosmopolitan restaurant. Streamlined arches and columns, gleaming copper, polished hardwood floors and an abundance of Cherrywood furnishings produce an elegant and sophisticated, yet comfortable, atmosphere. A lively exhibition kitchen allows diners to view the artful chefs creating their delicious dishes. With a capacity to seat between 150 and 250 guests, Prego features al fresco dining, full bar, banquet rooms and catering services.

The menu emphasizes regional Italian cuisine, featuring authentic pizza baked in a wood-fired oven, freshly made pastas, grilled fresh fish, spit-roasted meats and fowl, and an extensive list of wines from Italy and California that will please even the most discriminating wine connoisseur. Homemade desserts and pastries make a perfect ending to an unforgettable dining experience. Prego has received fine-dining awards and has been a culinary destination for more than two decades.



Prego Ristorante is open for lunch and dinner daily and is located at 18420 Von Karman Ave. in Irvine. For more information or reservations, call 949.553.1333 or visit [www.pregoristoranti.com](http://www.pregoristoranti.com) or [www.facebook.com/pregoristorante](http://www.facebook.com/pregoristorante).

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Visit Lugano's elegant jewelry salon, conveniently located in Newport Center adjacent to Fashion Island, where an associate will help you select the perfect Valentine's Day gift for your loved one.

Lugano Diamonds is located at 620 Newport Center Drive, Suite 100, Newport Beach, CA 92660. For more information, please visit [www.luganodiamonds.com](http://www.luganodiamonds.com), call 1.866.584.2666 and "Like" Lugano Diamonds on Facebook.

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# Romantic Gifts & Getaways



Bowlmor Lanes Orange County offers your event 30 lanes of high-energy, glow-in-the-dark bowling.



Bowlmor offers a full-service restaurant, a high-end sports bar with real-time sports ticker, an arcade and a state-of-the-art audiovisual system.

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At Select Locations  
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## Shouldn't You Bowlmor?

**B**owlmor Lanes Orange County offers you and your guests a unique and fun environment where glow-in-the-dark bowling will bring out your guests' competitive spirit while dining on sumptuous cuisine. The attentive service and professional party planners ensure a successful event every time. Bowlmor Lanes specializes in providing an incredible party experience for all types of events including teambuilding exercises, fundraisers, product launches and corporate holiday parties. Bowlmor Lanes Orange County offers your event 30 lanes of high-energy, glow-in-the-dark bowling, each with its own customizable 12-foot video screen so your guests can experience the fun of adding competition to the party. In addition to bowling, Bowlmor Lanes offers a full-service restaurant, a high-end sports bar with real-time sports ticker, an arcade and a state-of-the-art audiovisual system. At Bowlmor Lanes, you will be in a spectacular, upscale atmosphere, enjoying great food, drinks and exceptional service. Their executive chef, delectable catering menus and experienced service-oriented staff will take care of your every need.

**BOWLMOR LANES**

The District at Tustin  
 2405 Park Ave  
 Tustin, CA 92782

Phone: 714.258.2695  
 Website: [www.Bowlmor.com](http://www.Bowlmor.com)  
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For more information or to make a lunch or dinner reservation 949.553.1333  
 For Special Events and Private Party inquiries call Karinna at 949.874.6001

18420 Von Karman Avenue | Irvine, CA 92612 | [PregoRistoranti.com](http://PregoRistoranti.com)

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## Ruby's Diner: Only the Best for Our Guests

**T**hirty years ago, Doug Cavanaugh began an early morning jog by the Balboa Pier, which inspired the renovation of a dilapidated building into a 1940s-inspired diner which he named after his mother, Ruby. Ruby's opened its first diner on the Balboa Pier in Newport Beach on December 7, 1982 with three employees and a simple, straight-forward diner menu of hamburgers, hot dogs and malts. Along with his partner, Ralph Kosmides, on their first day of business, they brought in a whopping \$63! Within weeks the restaurant's popularity took off and there were consistently long lines to get into Ruby's. First year revenues were projected to be \$125,000. Receipts actually reached \$600,000. In the second year, sales exceeded \$1 million.

With this success in hand, these young entrepreneurs realized that they had tapped into something that appealed to people of all ages. A year later, they opened a 70-seat Ruby's in the Orange County residential community of Mission Viejo. Over the course of the next four years, they opened three more Ruby's Diners in various cities. With each new Ruby's, the decor, restaurant size and menu evolved. Now with five restaurants, Cavanaugh and Kosmides refined the concept and operational procedures to set the stage for a more aggressive expansion.

In the 1990s, The Ruby Restaurant Group opened 27 Ruby's Diners in Southern California, Pennsylvania, Nevada and New Jersey. While the basic decor (bright red vinyl booths with white Formica tables, soda fountains and colorful 1940s poster art) and menu remained the same, creative touches were added to many of the Ruby's Diners by developing modified themes to fit the local area. For example, the Ruby's Aqua Diner in Irvine's Woodbridge community features a collection of vintage Chris Craft model boats and a stunning view of the lake. The Huntington Beach pier location has a "Surf City" theme complete with surfboards and other authentic surfing memorabilia. Ruby's Super Chief Diner and Sky Ranch Bar and Patio, a mere walking distance from the famous San Juan Capistrano train station, has scale model trains running through the restaurant, along with an outdoor southwestern theme, the flavor of the area.

During the company's growth, Ruby's Management focused heavily on maintaining high food and service standards while consistently updating the menu to appeal to their growing customer base. In addition to their expanding Gourmet Burgers, today's menu offers a large variety of breakfast favorites, fresh salads, sandwiches, lunch and dinner specials, "Veggie Delights", trans-fat free fries, gluten-free options and of course, their popular fountain treats. As Cavanaugh is proud to say, "The fun atmosphere inspires people to come to Ruby's for the first time, but our high-quality food, friendly service and reasonable prices keep them coming back."

Another reason for Ruby's prosperity is the company's progressive management style and the high-caliber employees that they attract. Practically all aspects of the restaurant's operations are handled in-house, including the recruitment and training of management and hourly employees, product development and accounting functions. Cavanaugh and Kosmides take an active role in the operation of each restaurant and there are ongoing quality inspections and interviews with staff members at each of the Ruby's locations.

The original diner still boasts bright red vinyl booths, white Formica tables, soda fountains and colorful Coca-Cola posters that echo the swing era. In their 31st year of operation, Ruby's Diner has 37 uniquely



themed, family friendly locations in California, New Jersey, Nevada, Hawaii, Texas and Pennsylvania, including the newest edition at the John Wayne Airport in Orange County, Calif.

With even stronger growth planned for the future, the Irvine-based Ruby Restaurant Group has begun an aggressive program to attract franchisees in other areas of the country. Regardless of the number of restaurants Ruby's opens, however, the company is committed to never lose sight of what Cavanaugh and Kosmides consider the "basics." "We are committed to exceeding our guests' expectations of us.

This means that we must always provide great food and spectacular service in a sparkling clean restaurant," states Cavanaugh. "As our motto says, 'Only the best for our guest!'"

For more information, visit [www.rubys.com](http://www.rubys.com).

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