



Community Business Profile:

bleuroot

98 W. Main Street, West Dundee, IL

Village of
**West
Dundee**

Eclectic menu, familial atmosphere go hand in hand at Bleuroot

Visitors to West Dundee's downtown will find a variety of dining establishments to tempt their palates. Among them, Bleuroot, is for those who love tradition served with a twist. Overlooking the Fox River at 98 W. Main St., the establishment features a menu of eclectic farm-to-table culinary delights.

But for Maria Terry and Peter Capadona, head chefs and owners, delivering an approachable and comfortable dining experience is just as important. To that end, they tap into their Italian roots, which are steeped in family and kitchens.

"Food is a way of showing love and appreciation, and I enjoy it tremendously," Terry said. "I love visiting the tables and talking to guests and getting to know their dietary needs. I love when regulars come in and I have something new to show them. If you spoke to a few of my guests they would say it feels like home."

And that ties directly into the restaurateurs' mission for Bleuroot, which is to provide "a unique locally sourced farm-to-table dining experience where the food is always fresh and you leave feeling like family."

It's not, however, just the guests that have become like kin to Terry and Capadona. "The incredible team at Bleuroot has been supportive," Terry said. "Especially during the pandemic...they care, and that is so unique in this industry. They are my second family, absolutely."



She shares more about the business in the Q&A below:

You two took over Bleuroot in the spring of 2017. What was your food background before this endeavor? *"I'm a registered dietician by trade, and then I became a chef. I have a huge background in working at many restaurants and hotels in Chicago. Peter and I were both food service directors at Elgin Community College for the last 22 years, and then we started a catering company together, Tavola Mia LLC. Tavola mia is Italian for my table."*

Why is eating local important? *"Because it benefits the whole community. It's keeping money and the success of local businesses in your neighborhood."*

Can you talk a little bit about your menu? *"Our menu is based on providing healthy alternatives using locally-sourced ingredients. When we use the term farm-to-table we mean we source from local farmers within a 250-mile radius. Each dish at Bleuroot is made to order. Very few things are premade. All of our soups are made from our own stocks. I even have my cousin's honey on the menu."*

How do you determine your menu for each season? *"We love to do seasonal, because I think people like to change with the seasons. When we think of winter, it's hearty soups, zucchini squash, cozy corn poblano soup. For the summer, we think of sweet pea mint chilled soup. We go with what's in season to manage our menu and pricing. And also, to enhance the dining experience. That was our main goal. Everybody has a burger on the menu, but is it grass fed beef? Do they offer gluten-free buns? Our homemade turkey burgers are made with locally-sourced ground turkey, a little harissa and served with a sweet and tangy tomato chutney that is simply amazing. Those were things we wanted to do."*

What do you see people liking the most? *"The freshness. And the uniqueness — that we change the menu four times a year. There's always something a little different for the season."*

What else do you think people should try off of your menu? *"That's interesting, because I would say try everything. Some of the very unique things we have are the Roasted Thai Chili Cauliflower, Spinach Ravioli Over Braised Beef Short Rib, and the Homemade Vegan Burger. Our flatbread pizzas are also popular. My favorite one on the menu this season is the Prosciutto and Pear Flatbread. We actually brought it back by demand. It's all just different and unique."*

How has your experience with West Dundee officials been? *"From the landlord to the officials at the office, it has been an incredible experience of community...everybody working together to make Bleuroot survive. There's an incredible feeling of a neighborhood, and I think that's what I like most about West Dundee. We are a community."*



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