

# The New York Times

## GOING OUT Guide

**NOCTURNE IN G** Tucked away in the after-dark quiet of the burly area behind the Port Authority Terminal is an appealing oasis called Giordano (947-3883 and 4). Behind an unpretentious facade at 409 West 39th Street—turn west off Ninth Avenue at the corner market and Lincoln Tunnel sign—there is a striped canopy, grillwork and a wall lamp.

Inside is one of those Big Apple surprises—an established Italian restaurant you would expect to find down in Greenwich Village or along Mulberry Street. Even more surprisingly, there is a delightful little lounge-room by the bar where a young Greek named Kosmas sings and plays nightly from 8 to 12:30, except on Mondays.

There were Broadway Playbills posted by the reservations desk, where a neatly clad woman smiled in welcome. But the ambiance of the cocktail section, where couples and family groups familiarly lined the bar, was Old World serenity and charm. The Décor is tastefully conservative and cheerful.

At the bar recently, one couple were sipping Bloody Marys (\$2.45 each). A few feet away, in the open-alcove lounge, the young entertainer was singing and playing "La Vie En Rose" at the piano.

**SETTLING DOWN** "Let me move you across," said a young black-tied waiter, named Tony. He carried the two drinks into the homey alcove, with its comfortable cluster of tables and divans and a subdued, old-fashioned chandelier. Other seated couples were enjoying the entertainer, who was spotlighted against a brick wall. There were three oil paintings, one of a middle-aged pair that spelled family. They were the parents from Trieste who founded Giordano years ago, the waiter explained. Their sons are the present proprietors. Tony added that the restaurant had three dining rooms, one an open garden.

"But just relax in here as long as you like and enjoy the music," he said.

It was easy to do just that. The multilingual singer has a full, warm voice. Kosmas was also a friendly man, welcoming requests and treating one elderly trio near the piano with special deference.

Kosmas switched to his guitar for "Spanish Eyes" in Spanish, then the lively "Femina" in Italian and a cluster of Neapolitan folk ballads. "And now back to Broadway," he said, back on the piano bench for "A Chorus Line" and "What I Did for Love."

HOWARD THOMPSON

# CUE

NEW YORK

## NIGHTLIFE

### Giordano

Adding to the international accent of Old World restaurant Giordano (409 W. 39 St., 947-3883) is a pianist/guitarist/singer named Kosmas. He performs all of the usual piano bar standards with a twist: He does them in a diversity of languages. In the couch-lined piano bar of this favorite New York eatery with northern Italian cuisine, Kosmas's bill of fare varies from Spanish ("Granada") to Brazilian ("Honesty") to American M-O-R hits ("For All We Know"). Kosmas and his melodic song book internationale provide a relaxing note for an after-dinner Sambuca. A perfect spot for New Yorkers and tourists, Giordano's requests that men wear jackets.

# KEY host

MAGAZINE OF NEW YORK

## PROOF THAT PATRONS GRAVITATE TOWARD A GREAT RESTAURANT

For years and years, Giordano's, at 409 West 39th Street has been a magnet, attracting visitors to town, Manhattanites, citizens from New Jersey, etc., etc. That's a fact. Beyond the statement is the real tribute to the family behind the place. Giordano's is not located in the Times Square section, nor is it up in the action area of the middle to upper East Side. It is found west of Ninth Avenue, meaning that a full house is obtained because people travel blocks or miles to get there. Suffice to say, any trip, short or long, is worth it. The food is really fine. The surroundings supply warmth and comfort. The staff, Velko, as a greeter-manager, Umberto, as a pleasing captain, and the excellent crew of waiters, is an integral part of the success. The senior members of the clan, mom and pop, no longer completely active in the daily operation, are blessed. The sons Bruno, by day, Lucio by night, are no Cain and Able combination. They get along well, are people pleasers, and know how to run a restaurant. Be it Claris Casino or Scampi, the appetizer is a happy choice. If pasta is your pursuit, offer a hurrah or raise a flag for the Tortellini and Gnocchi al Pesto (ah, that Sweet Basil). It is a policy at Giordano's, that they have never served a plate of spaghetti. Linguine, si. Ziti, si. si. but spaghetti, never. Rigatoni and Fettuccine fans take heart. The fish and meat entrees touch upon the cuisines favored in Milan, Trieste, Rome, Bologna and Venice. How's that for variety? Veal Marsala and the Striped Bass with light bread- ing and garlic sauce rate some kind of recitative. In the lounge, a very pleasant nook off the bar, a before and after dinner drink is heightened by the presence of Kosmas, who triples. A pianist, who plays guitar, is also a signer. He excels in each direction. What's a nice Greek boy doing in an Italian restaurant? Entertaining in tip top fashion, that's what. Giordano's has a very complete wine list covering the best of the old country's product. A dry red wine, Stur- sat, Negri, and another, Grumello, are true vino compliments for a meal. Open on Sunday, meaning all seven days are yours for the tasting and enjoying.



## Manhattan Murals

By MARY McCOY

...Kosmas, singer, pianist, guitarist opened an unlimited engagement at Giordano's (409 W. 39th St.). Kosmas sings in seven different languages—something for everybody.

# NEW YORK POST

## Three entertainers around town

By CUET DAVIS

THERE ARE three kinds of entertainers at restaurants or bars who are not doing cabaret acts per se but who are more than background fillers, and examples of these are currently on view around town.

The first is the spinner of tales, as represented by the multi-lingual Kosmas of Giordano Restaurant at 409 W. 39 St. Too many pianist-singers spread themselves too thin, refusing to do what they can and consequently only what they should do. But with Kosmas, it's the more tongues the merrier.

And his seven or eight languages do well by him; he can warble sweet show tunes in Broadwayese, but that's not his major strength. His enchantment is foreign languages where the emphasis is on romance.

## It Happened Last Night

EARL WILSON



... BRAVO: singer-pianist Kosmas at Giordano.

\* \* \*

That's Earle, brother.

## Garden State Nite Life

### RESTAURANT NEWS

Traveling around the action spots in the metropolitan area I have the chance to meet a lot of exciting people and dine in many marvelous places. One such place is Giordano's Restaurant, New York, where I had the pleasure of meeting owner Lucio Creglia. This posh Italian restaurant happens to feature the best Italian atmosphere this side of the continent. Being a world traveler, I told Lucio it reminded me of Italy, which I absolutely adored. I recommend dining here and you will enjoy the fettuccine and beef piccata. I know I did! It's really scrumptious. I went off my diet and enjoyed the luscious rum cake and espresso. Now if you entertainment and songs, Kosmas can sing a beautiful rendition of "I Write The Songs" and you can belly dance to some really fast bouzouki music. Oh by the way, Kosmas is a Jersey boy and he lives in Weehawken.



Kosmas the singer, Philippa and Lucio Creglia-owner of Giordano's in N.Y.C.

## SHOW BUSINESS



### KOSMAS at GIORDANO

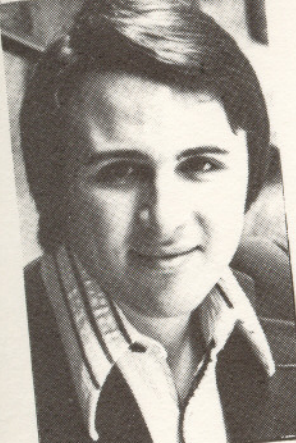
If you're one of Berlitz' super-achievers, and have an ear for music as well, pop into GIORDANO, 409 West 39 St., any night except Monday, between 8 and midnight.

Singer Kosmas (he uses no other name) does his vocalizing in five different languages—Greek, French, English, Spanish, and (of course) Italian.

As for the food, the owners insist that their Northern Italian cuisine, served from lunch to after theatre, 7 days, is finer than you can ever find in Florence.

Telephone 947-3883.

## SOUTH SHORE RECORD



### International

ROMANTIC BALLADS in Greek, Spanish, English, French and, of course, Italian, are the speciality of versatile musician and singer Kosmas, who can be heard from 8 p.m. to midnight any evening except Monday at Giordano's, 409 W. 39 St., N.Y.C.

## PROMENA DE NEW YORK



A favorite troubadour with natives and visitors alike, Kosmas plays his guitar and piano as he sings his exciting repertoire of songs—in five languages!—at the intimate Piano Lounge of the fine Italian restaurant, Giordano's, (409 W. 39th)