



## Chef Michael Joseph Cirafesi

Michael Cirafesi is a Norristown, Pennsylvania native born and raised in the heart of the city's Italian neighborhood. He recalls being fascinated by his grandmother, Victoria's, joy for cooking. She is credited for his inspiration and passion for Italian cuisine.

He graduated with a culinary degree from Philadelphia's Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College in 1993. Upon graduation he began working under Chef Nunzio Patruno of the nationally acclaimed Monte Carlo Living Room and Club in Philadelphia. During his 10 year tenure he trained under Chef Patruno learning the classic art of Italian cuisine becoming his Sous Chef. In 2002, Cirafesi moved to Hilton Head Island quickly becoming one of the island's highly awarded executive chefs for over 10 years.

In 2012, Cirafesi partnered with his mentor Nunzio Patruno to open an Italian restaurant in the former Antonio's restaurant location. In 2013, OMBRA Cucina Rustica located in The Village at Wexford opened with resounding success. Chef Cirafesi was recently voted Best Chef on Hilton Head 2013 by Hilton Head Monthly's Reader Choice Awards.

