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Written by Barbara Rader

Luna smells as heavenly as its food

The phrase "comfort food" has been overused, yet it describes the fare at Luna Italian Restaurant, still going strong after 17 years. Luna's 55-seat dining room is busy most of the day. Waitresses who could be your sister or mom are professional and friendly.

The décor harkens back to the 1950s or '60s – pink clashing with orange on the walls, dark maroon leather booths and tables, paper napkins and dark carpeting.

Ah, but the aromas! The mouth waters. It's Italian American food offering plenty of flavor.

When news broke a few months ago that the building in which Luna occupies the ground floor was auctioned off, it caused more than small concern among its regulars. Not to worry. To paraphrase the poet Robert Frost: Luna has "miles to go before it sleeps."

Luna's menu features entrees such as baked lasagna (\$15.55), spaghetti and meatballs, tomato, garlic and oil, butter and clam sauces, (\$12.45-\$13.45) all filling up the plate. Then one wonders why she ate those fantastic garlic rolls preceding the meal. Because they are irresistible, fashioned from the pizza dough and dripping with garlic bits and oil.

Ah, yes pizza: Served from morning to night and, if one can't secure a seat inside, there are a few sidewalk tables, adjacent to the kitchen window.

In addition to sampling entrees, there was an evening of pizza feasting: the House Special (\$17.45 for 14-inch; \$19.45 for a 19-inch) included pepperoni sausage, green peppers, meatballs (cut into small slices, the regular meatballs as entrees are about 1 ½ inches in diameter), onions and mushrooms, each wedge a meal itself. A cheese only pizza requested a very thin crust, and was delivered

to the table exactly as ordered – crust almost paper-thin  
(\$12.45 for 14-inch; \$13.95 for 16-inch)

Dinner entrees included a dish of delicate veal piccata in  
a buttery sauce (\$17.95) with a salad of mesclun, olives,  
tomatoes and cukes touched by light vinaigrette, Chances  
are you'll agree that "comfort food" is what makes Luna  
shine on.

#### Luna Italian Restaurant

Address: 49 Flagler St, Stuart

Phone: (772) 288-0550

Cuisine: Italian-American

Price range: Dinner entrees \$12.95-\$18.45; pizza \$12.45-  
\$19.95; lunch \$7.25-\$10.45

Details: Beer and wine

Service: Professional, caring

Hours: 11a.m. – 9p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11a.m.-10p.m.

Friday-Saturday, 4-8p.m. Sunday

Reservations: Never