



Belmont Business Improvement District Little Italy in the Bronx | Arthur Avenue Press Fact Sheet



Mario's Restaurant on Arthur Ave.



Archival Arthur Ave. Image



Joe's Italian Deli

ABOUT:

[The Belmont Business Improvement District](#) (BID) works to advance the economic well-being of local businesses and the community at large by promoting the “Little Italy in the Bronx” brand, its strong ethnic heritage and leadership in the culinary marketplace. The Belmont BID strives to expand business and awareness by leveraging the mercantile, social, political, and cultural assets within and around the community.

Little Italy in the Bronx, often referred to as Arthur Avenue or the “Real Little Italy,” features New York City’s best, authentic Italian restaurants, butchers, bakers, fish markets, delicatessens, pastry shops, artisan shops and specialty stores. Local businesses are often owned and operated by the same families that founded them nearly a century ago.

In addition to Fordham University, Little Italy in the Bronx is also walking distance to the New York Botanical Garden, the Bronx Zoo, and the Fordham Metro-North Railroad.

LOCATION:

East Fordham Rd from Southern Blvd to Lorillard Pl, Arthur Ave from E Fordham Rd to E 183rd St. E 187th St from Southern Blvd to Lorillard Pl. Crescent Ave from E 187th St to Arthur Ave.

DIRECTIONS:

Arthur Avenue is within approximately 30 minutes of nearly any point in the NY metropolitan area. In addition to ride shares including Uber and Lyft, the following are additional ways to visit the Belmont neighborhood:

- **Train via Metro North:** Harlem Line to Fordham Road or New Haven Line to Fordham Road.
- **Subway via the D/B line:** Take the 4 or D train to Fordham Road and take the 12-bus heading east; Take the 2 or 5 train to Pelham Parkway then the 12-bus heading west.
- **Driving:** Visitors from the Tri-state area often frequent Arthur Avenue including from Westchester County, Connecticut, Long Island, New Jersey and beyond, as the neighborhood is accessible from all bridges and major highways running in and around the Bronx.

HISTORY:

The Belmont neighborhood's interesting history dates back to the 1700's. In 1760, French Huguenot Pierre Abraham Lorillard came to New York and started the first tobacco company, P. Lorillard & Co., which is still in business today. At that time, they manufactured snuff and originally opened in lower Manhattan shortly before moving up to the Bronx where they purchased a large tract of land along the Bronx River and built their estate which they named "Belle Mont." Their original plant, the "Old Snuff Mill" still stands in the New York Botanical Garden.

In 1870, the manufacturing facilities were moved to New Jersey and Catherine Lorillard Wolfe, Pierre's great granddaughter, inherited the estate. One section of the estate was divided into various streets and avenues, while the famed Lorillard mansion was donated to become St. Barnabas Hospital and Medical Center. A great admirer of President Chester A. Arthur, Wolfe named the main street of this community, "Arthur Avenue," in his honor. Other portions of the estate were transformed into the Bronx Zoo and the New York Botanical Garden. Construction on these institutions began in 1898, which drove Italian immigrants to move and work in the Belmont community. By the beginning of the 20th century, the neighborhood was established as "Little Italy" and often referred to as the "Italian colonies" in the Bronx.

Today, Belmont has been critical in the development of the borough and the city. An economic as well as a cultural engine, Belmont hosts thousands of regional and local shoppers as well as domestic and international tourists every year, making it one of the busiest and best-known communities of NYC. For the full history, visit www.bronxlittleitaly.com/history/.

FUN FACTS:

- Celebrities and notables return to Arthur Avenue time and time again, especially to seek refuge from the Manhattan spotlight and to enjoy the small-town atmosphere for a relaxing meal or a weekend stroll. Celebrities include **Frank Sinatra, Clint Eastwood, Farah Fawcett, Liza Minelli, Cher, Adam Sandler, Neil Patrick Harris & David Burtka**, and others.
- Academy Award-winning actress **Anne Bancroft**, "A Bronx Tale" writer and actor **Chazz Palminteri**, author **Don DiLillo** and rock star **Dion DiMucci**, of **Dion and the Belmonts**, were all born and raised in the Belmont area of the Bronx.
- **Joe Pesci** began his acting career after being discovered by **Robert DeNiro** at a local neighborhood restaurant, where Pesci worked as the maitre'd.
- Movies inspired by Belmont include the 1980's classic film **A Bronx Tale**, the 1950's film **Marty**, the 1970's film **The Seven-Ups** and more.
- While the neighborhood is known as an Italian community, one of the oldest businesses on Arthur Avenue is owned by a Jewish family who own and operate [Teitel Brothers](#), a popular wholesale and retail grocery store which opened in 1915.
- As one of the first places to open on Arthur Avenue, [Mario's Restaurant](#) has been serving Neapolitan fare since 1919 and has roots in Cairo, Egypt. Before coming to America and opening Mario's in the Bronx, the original owners left Naples in the early 1900's and opened the first-ever Italian restaurant in Egypt. Notables who have dined at Mario's include Elizabeth Taylor, Eddie Fisher, Governor Rockefeller, Anna Moffo and others.
- Recently celebrating their centennial in 2018, [Madonia Bakery](#) has been serving traditional Sicilian style bread since 1918, along with more contemporary line of products for over a 100 years.
- **Cosenza's Fish Market** celebrates their 101st anniversary this year and is currently operated by a fourth-generation family member. They import a variety of seafood from as close as Long Island for clams and as far away as Greece for Branzino and sardines.

- Topped by a gold-lettered awning, **Egidio Pastry Shop** was established in 1912 and is the oldest pastry shop in the neighborhood. It has been with the current owner, Carmela Lucciola, since 1987.
- In addition to the great and historical businesses, Little Italy in the Bronx continues to attract new businesses with Italian roots like a restaurant specializing in fresh pasta, [MangiPasta](#) and [Vitto Machiavelli](#), a custom clothing store and tailor service.

MERCHANTS:

A highlight of merchants can be found below, but a full list is also available [online](#).

- **Bakeries:** Addeo Gennaro & Sons Bakery, Madonia Bakery and Terranova Bakery
- **Butchers:** Biancardi’s Meat Market, Peter’s Meat Market and Vincent’s Meat Market
- **Cafés & Pastry Shops:** Luna Cafe, Prince Coffee House, Egidio Pastry Shop, Artuso Pastry, Delillo Pastry Shop, Gino’s Pastry Shop and Morrone Pastry Shop & Café
- **Delicatessens:** Joe’s Italian Deli, Mike’s Deli, Tino’s Deli, Teitel Brothers, Calabria Pork Store and Casa Della Mozzarella
- **Fish Markets:** Cosenza’s Fish Market and Randazzo’s Seafood
- **Pizzerias:** Café Al Mercato, Full Moon Pizza, Ivana’s Pizzeria & Restaurant and Catania’s Pizzeria
- **Restaurants:** Dominick’s Restaurant, Mario’s, Roberto’s, Zero Otto Nove, Enzo’s of Arthur Ave and Antonio’s Trattoria
- **Specialty Stores** and more: Borgatti’s Ravioli & Egg Noodles, Calandra Cheese and Cerini Coffee & Gifts

ATTRACTIONS & EVENTS:

The Belmont neighborhood is in close proximity to a number of attractions that visitors can enjoy year-round including the [Bronx Zoo](#), [New York Botanical Garden](#), [Fordham University](#), [Yankee Stadium](#), [Ciccarone Park](#) and [Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church](#).

Highly anticipated annual events include **Brew at the Zoo** (June 14), **Ferragosto** (September 8), **Boo at the Zoo** (September 29 to October 28), the **New York Pizza Festival** (October 5 & 6), **Columbus Day** Festivities (October 14), **Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony**, **New York Botanical Garden Holiday Train Show** and more.

WEBSITE:

www.bronxlittleitaly.com

PHOTOS:

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