



<http://long-island.newsday.com/restaurants/la-bottega-manhasset-1.4091606>

La Bottega Manhasset

444 Plandome Rd. Manhasset, NY 516-439-5460

Description

At last count, there were 16 Nassau County branches of this go-to Italian panini, pasta and pizzette midpriced chainlet, so it's easy to pop into one for lunch or on the way home after work.

Having just returned from a week in California, where good salads are as easy to spot as Maseratis speeding on the 405, I was happy to be served this tricolore version, above, in the Manhasset restaurant. While it couldn't beat the one I had at Urth in Santa Monica just a few days earlier, its thin-cut radicchio, peppery baby arugula and crisp endive with Gaeta olives and shaved Parmigiana made me glad that Long Island could be somewhat of a contender against the West Coast stars. (Salt cravers: this one's for you.)

And what could be more soothing post-vacation than a little pot filled with pasta fagioli? Maybe there was a bit too much chunky canned tomato, but the diced zucchini, white beans and ditalini pasta were so hot and comforting that the acidic overtone seemed well worth risking an acid-reflux attack later.



A promotional poster for the 5th Annual Long Island Run for the Warriors. The text is arranged in a vertical stack: "5th Annual" in a script font, "LONG ISLAND RUN FOR THE WARRIORS®" in large bold letters, "10K, 5K, 1-Mile Walk/Run" in a smaller bold font, "Saturday, October 20, 2012 • 9:00 a.m." and "Town Hall, Town of Babylon" in a blue font, and a black button with "REGISTER NOW" in white. At the bottom, there are silhouettes of runners and a logo for "BY HOPE For The LI & WARRIORS" featuring a star.

I only had a couple of bites of this rigatoni Bolognese, and it tasted pretty good, but it left me craving a chunkier sauce. If I'm going to indulge in red meat, I want to be able to enjoy biting into it. -Marjorie Robins

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