

Highlight Restaurant

Aria, the little big restaurant of Caltanissetta

di: Francesco Pensavecchio

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“Strat’a foglia” is an old food market in the San Rocco quarter of the city; it was originally a spot for the trading of wild and bitter herbs carried out by members of an association known as *fogliamara* (“the bitter leaves”).

Marco Calabrese is the young and daring chef who decided to create here a spot of refined cuisine. **Aria Ristorante** is located in Via Tamburini, a small street in the market, a hop, step, and jump from one of the city’s principal traffic arteries, Viale Conte Testasecca. The locale itself is soberly decorated but, at the same time, welcoming, and the old stone walls and arches, now brought back to light, are shown to proper advantage.

For hors d’oeuvres: raw white shrimp and *burrata* cheese from Puglia on *siccagno* tomato water; then tartar of local beef with raw shrimp, herb-seasoned tomato drops, anchovy mayonnaise, and caper flowers. First course: fresh Sicilian hard wheat noodles with borage, cream of Ragusa cheese, Mazara del Vallo shrimp, and zest of lime. Main course: sea bass toasted in extra-virgin olive oil, red onion, and potato cream, artichokes seasoned with marjoram, wild mushrooms with ginger and strawberries. Elegant the last course with *Cioccomod*, a dessert of bitter chocolate with lemon sherbet, a salad of oranges, mint, and extra-virgin olive oil, a cream of pears cooked with Cerasuolo wine, and a biscuit of almonds with flakes of smoked salt.

The service is supervised by Santo Guttadauro. The wine list is limited, but goes well with the plates. The bottles offered are the wines of Francesco Cuccurullo’s *Masseria del Feudo*. We tasted, with the house’s consulting oenologist, Emiliano Falsini, the 2016 Grillo, crisp and savory in the splendor of its varietal fragrance; Rosso delle Rose, supple, elegant, and pleasurable; and, finally, a splendid surprise which we are not free to reveal.

Aria Ristorante

Via Tommaso Tamburini 63/65

93100 Caltanissetta

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Orari di apertura: Lunedì – Sabato: 20:00 – 22:30

Domenica: 13:00 – 14:30

Mercoledì: Chiuso

www.ristorantearia.it
