



CELESTINO DRAGO

Executive Chef/Owner

Drago Centro, IL Pastaio, Drago Bakery, Drago Air, & Drago Catering & Special Events

Chef Celestino Drago has played an integral role in the ever-evolving dining scene in Los Angeles for over two decades. Hailing from Sicily, Celestino has become one of the city's and the country's most lauded Italian chefs, with honors ranging from **Food & Wine Magazine** selecting him as a “**Best New Chef**” to being an invited guest chef at the **James Beard House** in New York on multiple occasions to being named Planned Parenthood LA's FoodFare 2014 “**Chef of the Year.**” From his affable demeanor to his

inventive and delicious takes on Italian fare, Chef Celestino Drago has helped lay the groundwork for Italian cuisine in America today.

Before launching his restaurant empire in Southern California, Celestino attended mechanical school in Italy while simultaneously working at a restaurant in the city of Pisa called *Pierino*. It was there that he realized he “loved everything about the restaurant business.” Recognizing his culinary potential, the chef at *Pierino* worked closely with him and, in just three short years, Celestino took over as chef.

In 1979, Celestino was hired as chef at Los Angeles Italian restaurant, *Orlando Orsini*, prompting him to leave Italy to embark upon a new culinary career in the United States. After working at *Orlando Orsini*, Celestino worked at Spectrum Foods before opening his first restaurant, *Celestino*, in Beverly Hills. After receiving high praise, he was encouraged to open another restaurant, *Drago*, on bustling Wilshire Boulevard in Santa Monica. *Drago* was met with rave reviews and was consistently rated in the top 5 Italian restaurants in Los Angeles before it closed in 2011. It was Celestino's success at *Drago* that led to his subsequent ventures, which include his **artisanal bakery, Dolce Forno**, the more upscale eatery, **IL Pastaio** in Beverly Hills, and **Drago Centro** in the heart of the Financial District in Downtown Los Angeles.

Celestino's cuisine is deeply rooted in his childhood home in Sicily and since his arrival in Los Angeles he has been delighting diners with dishes that harken back to his home country dishes imbued with the heritage and authenticity of true Italian fare. Celestino has been touted as one of the Best Italian Chefs in the United States by **Bon Appétit** and **Los Angeles Times** Restaurant Critic S. Irene Virbila has called Celestino, **"one of the best-known Italian restaurateurs in Southern California."**

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FACT SHEET

ADDRESS:	The City National Bank Plaza 525 South Flower Street, Suite 120 Los Angeles, CA 90071
PHONE:	213-228-8998
HOURS OF OPERATION:	LUNCH Monday – Friday 11:30AM – 2:30PM DINNER Monday – Saturday 5:00PM – 10:00PM, Sunday 5:00PM – 9:00PM
WEBSITE:	www.dragocentro.com
EXECUTIVE CHEF/OWNER:	Celestino Drago
CHEF DE CUCINA:	Ian Gresik
ABOUT DRAGO CENTRO:	Chef Celestino Drago's contemporary Italian masterpiece, Drago Centro offers innovative twists to authentic Italian dishes. Drago Centro has become one of the foremost dining establishments in Downtown Los Angeles, featuring stunning contemporary design, the 9,500 square-foot restaurant boasts an open kitchen, a private dining room, and a demonstration kitchen housed in what was once the vault of City National Bank.
MENU:	At Drago Centro, located in the heart of Downtown Los Angeles, Chef Celestino Drago is giving his classic Italian techniques a contemporary flair. The lunch and dinner menus at Drago Centro feature a wide range of options, from hand-cranked pastas, savory steaks, exotic wild game and elegant desserts sure to end the meal on a sweet note.



FACT SHEET

ADDRESS:	400 N. Canon Drive Beverly Hills, CA 90210
HOURS OF OPERATION:	MON - THU 11:30AM - 11:00PM FRI - SAT 11:30AM - 12:00PM SUN 11:30AM - 10:00PM
PHONE:	310-205-5444
WEBSITE:	www.giacominodrago.com
EXECUTIVE CHEFS/OWNERS:	Giacomino Drago/Celestino Drago
ABOUT IL PASTAIO:	This friendly neighborhood trattoria has been a favorite meeting place in Beverly Hills, satisfying locals and visiting customers with its mouthwatering pasta since opening in 1994. Handmade on the premises, pasta is the star of this restaurant. Master chef Celestino Drago and his brother, Executive Chef/Partner Giacomino Drago designed the menu around pasta as the main course. "We want the customers to feel comfortable like they are in their own home," says Giacomino. Many guests take him at his word, showing up daily for some of the best risottos and pasta dishes in town.



Drago Bakery is located in the heart of Culver City, CA and specializes in high-end Italian breads, pastries and desserts. Our mission is to be a cornerstone in the community, creating a small town and neighborhood atmosphere where customers feel comfortable and become instant regulars.

We are sensitive to small restaurants and cafes and their needs for healthy and delicious baked goods. Our products are available to restaurants, hotels, and caterers in Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Santa Monica and throughout Southern California through our wholesale distribution operations. In addition, our products are available to customers right from our retail shop located at the bakery.

Drago Bakery (formerly Dolce Forno Bakery) is a proud member of Celestino Drago's group of restaurants and catering operations. The initial intent was to supply his own restaurants with bread but due to an overwhelming response, we have expanded our service to the entire food industry community throughout the Los Angeles area.



Drago Catering & Special Events offers full catering and production services for any event in any location, from wedding receptions, elegant dinners, corporate cocktail parties and charity galas.

With award-winning menus that change seasonally, Drago Special Events has an ongoing commitment to bring innovative, high quality food and impeccable service to all catered occasions.

Since 1985, Master Chef Celestino Drago and his staff have produced spectacular events to many in the political, socially prominent and celebrity soirees of "who's who" in Los Angeles. Events for Ozzy Osbourne, MGM, producer Steven Bochco, president of William Morris Jim Waitt, Janet Jackson, BMW, Bob Shriver, president of the Motion Picture Academy Robert Rehme, Italian Film Festival, and more. Drago Special Events is proud to serve many of Los Angeles cultural institutions such as Los Angeles County Museum, Istituto Italiano di Cultura, an extension of the Italian Embassy and the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce.

As a community leader, Chef Celestino Drago has also participated in numerous charitable events including benefiting Pediatric Aids Foundation, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Children Affected by AIDS, Cystic Fibrosis, Kings Care Foundation, the National Kidney Foundation and Concern Foundation. We look forward to the opportunity to bring the finest contemporary modern cuisine and impeccable service of Drago Special Events to your next event.





Drago Air catering provides catering services to some of the world's top airlines. If you fly first class, chances are you probably enjoyed one of the meals prepared by Drago Air Catering.

