

## America's Oldest Italian Restaurant

In 1886, Angelo Del Monte opened Fior d'Italia in San Francisco to feed the gold miners and fortune hunters roaming the Barbary Coast. The restaurant was a hit with the locals and became a favorite of the patrons who frequented the bordello upstairs. The original building was destroyed by fire in 1893.

After the fire, the Fior moved up the street to 492 Broadway. By 1903, Armido Marianetti had become a full partner with Del Monte. The restaurant had grown into an elegant establishment, attracting society, diplomats and artists. This building was demolished in the Great Fire and Earthquake of 1906

Within a week after the 1906 Earthquake the Fior quickly erected a tent with a wooden façade feeding the populace with great kettles of soup while the City rebuilt. The Fior was rebuilt at 492 Broadway, adding a second building next door in 1909. This exquisite property featured an upstairs dining room with remarkable stained-glass windows, gilded crown moldings and murals painted on the ceiling. The building still exists today and the same oval-shaped windows can be seen at the corner of Kearny and Broadway.

In 1930 Fior abruptly moved to a location across Kearny to 504 Broadway after a landlord dispute. Overnight they moved food, liquor, iceboxes, tables and chairs. By three A.M. they had finished and served lunch at 11 A.M.

By 1954, Broadway began to change, and it was no longer a good fit for the restaurant. The Fior moved into the heart of North Beach across from Washington Square at Union and Stockton streets where they stayed for over 50 years. In 2005, after a busy Valentine's night, a fire broke out in the basement causing the Fior to make its last move to the San Remo Hotel. Today, the Fior d'Italia serves its Northern Italian Cuisine on the ground floor of the historic San Remo Hotel. This was the first hotel built after the 1906 Earthquake by A.P. Giannini, the founder of Bank of America.

In 2012, Fior d' Italia was purchased by its fourth owner in 128 years, long-time executive chef Gianni Audieri and his wife Trudy. Gianni was born and raised in Milan, and has worked in restaurants all over the world. He joined the Fior in 1982 and has been cooking his traditional Northern Italian cuisine to rave reviews ever since. [<http://www.fior.com/home>]

