



CELESTINO DRAGO

Executive Chef/Owner

Drago Centro, IL Pastaio, Drago Bakery, Drago Air Catering
& 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. Originally from Sicily, Celestino is regarded as one of the pioneers of Italian Cuisine in the US and has become one of Los Angeles' most celebrated 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 and is the current **Food Fare 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 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, originally known as "Dolce Forno" now re-branded under the name Drago Bakery**, the more upscale eatery, **IL Pastaio** in Beverly Hills, and **Drago Centro** in the heart of the Financial District in Downtown Los Angeles, as well as **Drago Special Events & Catering** which brings his highly sought-after fine dining experience directly into the home or private event setting. Celestino reached for the stars with his highly successful **Drago Air Catering** venture, which supplies prepared foods for several major airlines and private charters.

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."**



DRAGO CENTRO

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.

il Pastaio

Ristorante • Bar

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.celestinodrago.com

EXECUTIVE CHEF/OWNER: Celestino Drago

CHEF DE CUCINA: Giacomino Drago

ABOUT IL PASTAIO: Since opening in 1994, IL Pastaio has been a favorite meeting place in Beverly Hills for locals, celebrities and tourists wanting to experience this iconic friendly neighborhood trattoria atmosphere and mouthwatering Italian cuisine. Handmade on the premises, pasta is one of the stars of this restaurant. Master Chef **Celestino Drago** and his brother, Chef 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 Celestino and Giacomino. Many guests certainly agree, showing up daily for some of the best risottos and pasta dishes in town.



FACT SHEET

ADDRESS: 3828 Willat Avenue
Culver City, CA 90232

RETAIL STORE
HOURS OF OPERATION: MON – FRIDAY 8:00AM - 5:00PM
SAT (Will-Call/ By Appointment)

PHONE: 310-280-6004

WEBSITE: www.dragobakery.com

OWNER: Celestino Drago

ABOUT DRAGO BAKERY:

Drago Bakery, originally known as Dolce Forno Bakery, is located in Culver City and specializes in authentic Italian breads, pastries, desserts and fresh pasta. Our mission is to preserve and provide classic, rustic hand-made artisan bakery products baked fresh seven days a week. Drago Bakery measures “Freshness” not by the day, but by the hour it was baked. Our valued customers range from individual restaurants to restaurants with multiple locations, hotels, sidewalk cafés, local caterers and individual clients and we are particularly sensitive to their needs for fresh, healthy & delicious baked goods as well producing quality baked goods for all the Drago properties.

Through our wholesale distribution operation, our delivery fleet services an extensive range throughout Southern California on a daily basis.

In addition, our products are available through our retail shop located at the bakery in Culver City and at all Drago Restaurants in Los Angeles.

Celestino's initial intent of Drago Bakery was to supply his own restaurants with bread but due to an overwhelming response from the food service community, we have gratefully expanded our services throughout the Los Angeles area.



FACT SHEET

ADDRESS:	415 North Beverly Drive, Suite 208 Beverly Hills, CA 90210
HOURS OF OPERATION:	Available 24/7 By Appointment
PHONE:	310-828-1585
WEBSITE:	www.dragocatering.com
OWNER:	Celestino Drago

ABOUT DRAGO Special Events & Catering:

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 experienced staff have produced spectacular events for many well-known political, financial, entertainment & celebrity clients in Los Angeles. 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 to name a few. We look forward to the opportunity to bring the finest contemporary modern cuisine and impeccable service of Drago Special Events to your next event.



FACT SHEET

ADDRESS: 500 Center Street
El Segundo, CA 90245

HOURS OF OPERATION: By Appointment

PHONE: 310-280-6004

WEBSITE: www.dragoaircatering.com

OWNER: Celestino Drago

ABOUT DRAGO AIR CATERING:

Drago Air Catering provides a wide range of catering services to some of the world's top airlines and Private Charters. From service in First Class to Coach, chances are you probably enjoyed one of the meals prepared by Drago Air Catering.