

The New York Times

Long Island Dining | At the Malls

Shop, Shop, Shop, Then Eat, or Even Dine

By SUSAN M. NOVICK

“... Some locally owned restaurants in malls are trying in various ways to satisfy shoppers who are looking for an alternative to the national chain restaurants that predominate.”

At Roosevelt Field, [La Bottega](#), owned by Rakesh Chadha of Fresh Meadows, is a franchise of the expanding Long Island mini-chain. Unlike the typical La Bottega outpost — there are more than 15 — the spacious cafe, in a quiet corner of the mall’s upper level, between Nordstrom’s and Macy’s, offers a full bar and a tapas menu.

The extensive menu of salads, [pastas](#), panini and pizza includes many gluten-free selections. The “Lunch Box,” a combination of one soup, one salad or panino and a soft drink, is the preferred choice for takeout. “You can sit down and relax here, especially during the holidays when you’re overwhelmed and stressed,” said Sandy Sanchez, 40, of Lido Beach, who ordered a salad of arugula, Tuscan barley, grilled chicken and Gorgonzola on a recent afternoon. “This place is calming,” she said. “You can even order a cocktail.”

LA BOTTEGA Roosevelt Field Mall,
630 Old Country Road, Garden City.

Arugula and farro salad with grilled chicken, \$12; 12-inch pizza with four cheeses, \$14.50. Full bar. (516) 248-4529.

labottegarooseveltfield.com.