

ENTREE

AN UNCOMPROMISING AND
CONFIDENTIAL TRAVELERS
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AT HOTELS, RESTAURANTS &
TRAVEL AROUND THE WORLD

March 2007

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Founded 1981...our 26th year

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WHILE IN TUSCANY, THE ALERT CONCIERGE AT OUR HOTEL (*LOCANDA dell Amorosa* in *Sinalunga*, also a wonderful experience) recommended a restaurant that we want to share with you. The former executive chef of the hotel, *Walter Redaelli*, has opened his own eponymous restaurant in a nearby town, *Bettolle (Siena)*. Our dining experience was clearly one of the highlights of this trip. The restaurant is located in a boutique hotel called *La Bandita*. It has a small number of tables, very inviting and intimate. Suffice it to say that the menu is fabulous, with many local favorites such as guinea fowl and wild boar. They have a multi-course chef's menu that is paired with appropriate wines. An integral part of our experience that evening was the service provided by their maitre d', *Arianna Ranocchia*. From providing menu suggestions to recommending various wines, she was extremely knowledgeable. One of the practices that we observed was her decanting skill for wines by the glass, which is rarely seen in the U.S, a special experience that really showcases a fine wine. In our discussions with Arianna, she told us about recently participating in a competition held in Rome with numerous maitre d's from all over Italy, where she was awarded the top prize. We found it interesting that someone with her talent would be found in such a small, quaint town versus a larger city. That notwithstanding, it was clearly our good fortune to visit this restaurant and make her acquaintance. The combination of ambiance, food, wine and superior service provided by Arianna was a memorable experience. Bravo. *Restaurant Walter Redaelli, Hotel La Bandita.*