Celebrating a Sweet One Year with Sweet Messina's Bakery

Before the sun rises over Havertown, the ovens at Sweet Messina's Bakery are already glowing, and so is Gabriella Messina's passion for her craft. What started as a dream rooted in family, tradition, and a love for bringing people together has quickly become a local favorite, where every pastry tells a story and every customer feels like part of the family. At the heart of it all is Messina, whose dedication, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit are turning Sweet Messina's into more than just a bakery, it's becoming a community staple.



Gabriella Messina, Owner of Sweet Messina's Bakery

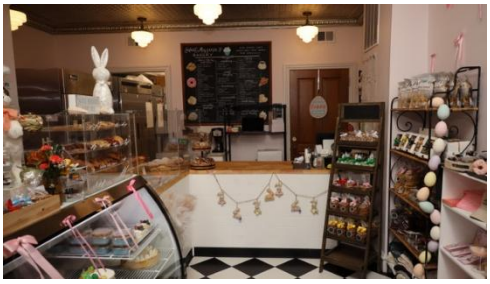
A little over a year ago, the doors at 1217 Darby Road re-opened with a bright, talented, and eager pastry chef ready to greet the community. What she didn't realize was that it would be so busy "right from the jump." Messina said she is the sole baker and cake decorator for now, "wearing all of the hats," but plans to expand her team soon. It has been a rewarding first year for Messina. "I've met so many people from our community…it's been really cool. I appreciate that side of things where you get to meet people. Messina continued, "it's really nice that everyone is supporting me and it's been overall, a really good first year!"



After Messina graduated from Haverford High School, she enrolled in The Restaurant School in Philadelphia and received her bachelor's degree in pastry arts. Some may remember Messina from Jacquette's Bakery in Broomall. Messina was hired as a pastry decorator and quickly grew her position. She was able to support the business and grow into a management role, which gave her the experience of running a business. When the opportunity came to open her own bakery in Havertown she couldn't think of a better idea or location!

If you've been inside Sweet Messina's you've seen the black and white photos of her family on the wall. Messina attributes her love of baking and cooking to her time with her grandmother. "She was sick a lot of her life that I knew her and needed something to keep herself busy. We would cook and bake all the time. She would even keep me home from

school to bake," shared Messina. Family is everything to Messina and community comes with that! "Our community is very close… Family-like… I don't ever plan on leaving." Now that Messina has a year under her belt she is excited to iron out some details and figure out what works best for her.



Looking ahead, Messina envisions a future for Sweet Messina's that continues to grow, but never at the expense of the heart that built it. Grounded in long hours, resilience, and a deep belief in her craft, she carries forward a simple but powerful mindset: don't give up, take pride in the work no one else sees, and don't be afraid to ask for help along the way. It's that honesty, and humility, that defines not only her journey as an entrepreneur, but the spirit of the bakery itself. And while her vision reaches five years ahead, Messina is quick to point out that none of it happens alone. Behind every pastry case and busy morning is a community that shows up, day after day, not just for special occasions, but simply because they want to. For that, she is endlessly grateful. In many ways, Sweet Messina's isn't just growing, it's being carried forward by the very people it serves. Messina plans to stick around! "I may need to move beyond this location. It's a little small for the amount of product I would like to push out, but for now it works and I am happy to be in the heart of our community."

Photos courtesy of Joel Perlish Photography

Sweet Messina's
BAKERY

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