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## Valentino Restaurant Group Appoints New Chef at Flagship Location

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**Food & Spirits:** Exclusive Italian flavor is coming to Los Angeles courtesy of Valentino Restaurant Group who recently appointed Nicola Chessa as executive chef of their flagship Santa Monica restaurant.

Founded in 1972 by restaurateur Piero Selvaggio, who is widely considered one of the modern fathers of Italian Cuisine in America, Valentino is the group's flagship

restaurant, with other locations in Las Vegas and Houston.

Chessa, a native of Sardinia, was formerly the executive chef at Giorgio Ristorante at the Shoppes at Mandalay Place in Las Vegas. He is replacing Tomasso Tarantino, who has been moved to the company's restaurant in Houston, Valentino Vinbar.

Already considered to be the finest Italian restaurant in Los Angeles, I can't wait to try Chessa's approach to the classic restaurant's stylish innovative cuisine including crudo, culatello, calamaretti, and hand-made pastas.