



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Ryan O'Connor constructs a pizza at Bene! Gourmet Pizza.

Bene! uses fresh, tasty ingredients to dish out pizza par excellence

Restaurant review

Aaron Shakra
Pulse Reporter

I spent last Thursday's lunch hour at Bene! Gourmet Pizza and ate a meal with two friends. The restaurant may be unfamiliar to many college students because its two loca-

tions — 225 W. Broadway St. and 4 Oakway Center — are a little way from campus.

Along with Cozmic Pizza at 1432 Willamette St., Bene! is the best in town (with Pizza Research Institute at 1328 Lawrence St. coming in a close second). The pizza is stacked with enough ingredients to eat like a hearty meal; the crust is not-too-

thick, not-too-thin, tasty and coated with olive oil and garlic. It only took about two slices to fill my stomach for multiple hours. Other eaters' results may vary.

But before I even tried the pizza, I ate an "Insalata Greca" — a Greek salad. This was close to a meal in itself, and great attention to detail

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Gaming

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2 is already online and Xbox will be connected Nov. 5.

"The online stuff is definitely the future of gaming," Mack said. "It's so fun being able to play with someone from another state or country."

The store hosts online games every week, with "SOCOM: U.S. Navy Seals" on Tuesdays and "Halo" on Thursdays.

Big City Gamin' also offers birthday parties and game tournaments.

According to Field, competitive tournaments have been hugely popular.

"I think there are going to be professional video game leagues within 10 years," he said.

Field opened the Eugene shop in December and a second store in Corvallis in September. The Corvallis location is even better-equipped for tournament play, boasting an eight-screen, 22-seat game "stadium."

"We're trying to lead the industry into competitive gaming," Field said. "The truth of the matter is that kids are playing games now more than ever. ... They might as well have a place to showcase that skill."

You won't find fancy seating or tournaments at Gek's Game Grotto on Olive Street. However, owners Tim and Eva Jordan are also striving to be an integral part of Eugene's gaming community.

The bright colored, concrete-walled shop deals mostly in PC games, but also sells console games.

Tim Jordan said the store also carries a few used systems and occasionally stocks new ones.

Jordan's involvement with customers is up-close and personal, given that he and his wife are the store's only employees.

"We think of ourselves as a local general store that deals in games," he said.

The Grotto also helps customers locate hard-to-find games, and the Jordans offer free game hints and assistance to players.

"If someone is stuck in a game, we will gladly help them out," Jordan said.

They provide resources, such as Internet addresses, to players needing "cheats" or help passing certain levels.

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Justin Field
owner of Big City Gamin'

The shop also has a referral system, where customers and the friends they refer receive a \$2 store credit.

Though Gek's Game Grotto and Big City Gamin' operate differently, both dealers say the most popular

game on the horizon is "Grand Theft Auto: Vice City."

"That will probably be the highest-selling game of all time," Mack said.

Mack and Field also listed "Tony Hawk's Proskater 4," "Hitman 2: Silent Assassin" and "Lord of the Rings" as releases that will likely sell out quickly. Jordan said "Neverwinter Nights" is his fastest-selling PC game.

New technology and additions to game libraries may be transforming the game world in drastic ways, but Field said people still play for a single, good old-fashioned reason.

"Simply put, it's fun," he said.

Contact the Pulse editor at jacquelynlewis@dailyemerald.com.

Book

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into Fort Knox. Other chapters explain how to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel, borrow the "Mona Lisa" and

meet aliens at Area 51.

Each chapter is broken down into four sections. The first section lists what materials will be needed. For destroying a nuclear missile silo, you'll need things like a missile

transporter-erector vehicle, one missile security team consisting of 15 to 17 armed "Security Police," two-way radios, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms permit number 33 and duct tape. The next sec-

tion gives the time required (eight weeks for silo destruction). Then there's background information and step-by-step instructions.

Despite the extensive instructions given in the book, unless the reader

happens to be a millionaire or have an aunt or uncle with advanced weapons training, the feats are still impossible. "Don't Try This at Home" is best suited for occupying space on the coffee table or the back of the toilet than anything else. At least there the book will be able to entertain your guests — and without the use of any Kevlar vests.

Contact the Pulse reporter at helenschumacher@dailyemerald.com.

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