

NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Ribbon Cutting at Ibiza (Mediterranean restaurant) on Wednesday, December 4, at 12:00pm

Avon Lake, Ohio: On Wednesday, December 4, at 12:00pm, there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at Ibiza, a new Mediterranean restaurant, at 33481 Lake Road in Avon Lake.

Ibiza gets its name from the Spanish island in the Mediterranean Sea off the eastern coast of Spain. Antonio Ponce, the owner of this new Avon Lake restaurant, has been working in Spanish cuisine for nearly 25 years. He started in the Spanish and Portugese rich communities in New Jersey, and moved to Cleveland in 1996 to help open Mallorca, the popular Spanish restaurant on W.9th Street in Cleveland's Warehouse District. From there, Ponce went to Sangria Y Tapas near Detroit and Dover Center in Westlake. So why name his own restaurant Ibiza? "Ibiza is the party island," says Ponce. "I want to bring that festive atmosphere to my restaurant."

The fare at Ibiza will not just be Spanish, it will also include Portugese and Italian dishes, making it truly Mediterranean. Unique features of the menu include an enticing lunch menu and also family style meals for groups. For fans of paella, Ibiza has multiple kinds on the menu, including Paella Valenciana ("from the farm") and Paella Mariniera ("from the sea"). Ibiza will also boast one of the most eclectic seafood selections around, serving flounder, scallops, shrimp, lobster, clams, squid, basa, crab, and even Pulpo (octopus).

Antonio wants to bring the richness of this cuisine to Avon Lake, and he chose a space that is well suited for it. At the far east end of Avon Lake's historic train station building in Beach Park Station, this restaurant space that was formerly Saponi Italian Grille is conducive to the relaxed atmosphere of tapas and other aspects of Mediterranean dining. Ibiza's interior has the charm of a building more than a century old, with exposed brick and a covered outdoor patio that help guests imagine settings in Portugal, Italy, and Spain.

The City of Avon Lake is also excited about the new flavors—and experiences—that Ibiza is going to bring to the City. "We believe that Ibiza is going to draw people in," says Avon Lake Economic Development Director Ted Esborn, "Not just with a menu that people enjoy exploring, but with dining experiences that they have never had before. The Mediterranean cultures that inspired Ibiza value the social experience of eating, just as much as the food itself, and bringing that to Avon Lake is what I find most exciting about this new restaurant."