

# Join the Party

Gabriele's Italian Steakhouse is a well-known Greenwich hotspot, but it's also one of the best kept secrets for hosting fine private events



**G**abriele's Italian Steakhouse has established itself as a Greenwich dining institution. Celebrities such as Judge Judy Sheindlin, Regis Philbin and Chazz Palminteri fill its tables on a regular basis. Guests turn out for Gabriele's famous steaks; world-class maitre d', and trivia hound, Tony Capasso; and the lively bar scene. Yet, Gabriele's event planner, Catherine Vinci, one of the few staffed restaurant event planners around, tells us another reason Gabriele's should be top of mind—its private events.

"I have so much flexibility here and I don't know that people are aware of it," Vinci says. "Sure, everyone comes here for dinner, but not everyone knows how to party here."

But some do. Vince McMahon of WWE fame recently rented out the restaurant for his birthday party. Jonathan Quick, the Los Angeles Kings goalkeeper, threw a bash for friends and family after the Kings won the Stanley Cup. A brokerage house had a *Caddyshack*-themed night, featuring gourmet popcorn and a French fry bar.

The restaurant space is renowned for its stone fireplaces and leather-and oak decor, but few know about the second floor dining hall capable of hosting 120-plus guests, accessible by double curved staircase alone.

"Most restaurants can't do a two hundred-plus person party, and most catering halls don't have five-star quality food," Vinci says. "We do."

Gabriele's also has an award-winning pastry chef, Ruben Palma, who delights in making party-themed cakes on-site—and yes, gluten-free is an option.

"Guests don't have to worry about getting a cake and bringing it here," Vinci says. "Ruben makes it on the premises. Guests can pick the theme, the flavor, and he will just go creative with it. We've had a *Fifty Shades of Grey* party, a University of Miami party, a Chanel-themed party... Ruben can pretty much do anything you want."

There's little that can't happen here. "We've had corporate off-site teaching days, weddings, sweet sixteens, bat mitzvahs, formal events, bachelor and bachelorette parties."

Not to mention, Gabriele's offers off-site catering. "A lot of restaurants do it, and do it well. But we not only send our food, we send our staff—servers and bartenders included. You essentially have Gabriele's in your living room."

Vinci recalls Prince Moulay Rachid of Morocco coming into Gabriele's on a whim and having to seat his expansive party at the drop of a hat.

"We think of, and plan for, everything," Vinci says with a smile. "There's nothing we can't do."



**GABRIELE'S**  
ITALIAN STEAKHOUSE