

NEW YORK

OCTOBER 13, 2008

FOOD/OPENINGS



Lugo Caffè

One Penn Plaza, 33rd St. nr. Eighth Ave.
212-760-2700

INFATUATED BY ALL things Italian—but especially the men’s-shirts shops called *camicerias*—the owners of Lugo Menswear in Nolita have expanded their brand (“Lugo Tailored Lifestyle”) with an Italian restaurant opposite Madison Square Garden. The 150-seat spot has replaced their previous foray into food, Tupelo Grill, but chef Greg Lombardi has stayed on to convert the steaks-and-chops menu into one that celebrates, as the newly installed sign over the bar advertises, *la dolce vita*. Selections now include fried artichokes with lemon aioli, the increasingly popular clam pizza (see “Out of Their Shells,” p.49), and fettuccini with prosciutto and wild mushrooms, plus such steakhouse vestiges as the New York strip and a \$72 porterhouse “Fiorentina” for two. Italian wines are available by the glass and the half or full bottle, and—surprise!—the staff has been outfitted in shirts and ties from Lugo’s collection.