



FRIENDSWOOD, TX  
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## *Stefano's Italian Kitchen & Pizzeria*

### *Stephen Carpentieri, Owner*



Stephen Carpentieri opened Stefano's Italian Kitchen & Pizzeria in 1994 just three months after graduating from the University of Houston in 1994 with a degree in architecture. Located at 106 S. Friendswood Drive in the Captain's Corner Shopping Center, Stefano's occupies 3,000 square feet with 24 employees, and offers authentic Italian pizza and cuisine prepared from scratch for dine in, delivery, and catering.

Stephen says that he soon realized after graduation that the pay was too low in the field of architecture so he

opened a pizza shop instead. Even though he had no prior restaurant experience other than pizza delivery, the long nights and hard work as an architecture student helped him prepare for the long hours of operating a business that is open fourteen hours daily, seven days a week. He says that right after his business opened, his first delivery was late because Friendswood Drive was blocked for the Christmas parade.

Born in Naples, Italy to a mother that was a nurse and a father that was a pediatrician, the Carpentieri family relocated to Galveston so Stephen's father could help advance leukemia research at UTMB, then later moving to Friendswood in 1976.

Stephen said "it was a no brainer to open a business in Friendswood because I grew up here, had many friends in the area, and at the time there were only two pizza chains in the city and no Italian restaurants. I also loved the small town feel, how everyone supports local businesses, and that my customers are families who love pizza and have a higher expendable income allowing them to eat out. And over the years I

discovered I was right; the residents of Friendswood appreciated a good quality pizza, and they cut me a lot of slack from late deliveries to messed up orders and gave me the opportunity to succeed and supported me."

Stephen is a long standing member of the Friendswood Chamber of Commerce. When not running his business, Stephen enjoys flying his plane and getting away to a cabin he owns at Lake Tahoe to relax and ski. The continued success of Stefano's fuels Stephen's plans to build and relocate to the property that he owns in downtown at Friendswood Drive and Spreading Oaks in 2018.

