



# Menbere Aklilu

Owner, Salute e Vita Ristorante

## *A Life of Food*

Menbere Aklilu was born in Ethiopia and grew up in Italy working at family-owned restaurants in Rome. She brings her international experience and her own special flair to Salute e Vita Ristorante. She is a recipient of the 2009 Contra Costa Women-Owned Business of the Year Award. The year 2013 marks the 10th anniversary that Aklilu became owner of Salute e Vita Ristorante.

As a role model in the community, Aklilu gives back by hosting dinner for the young women of the Delta Academy. She also finances tuition for some girls to attend Northern Lights School in Oakland, a private school that caters to kids who would not be able to attend private school otherwise.

Salute e Vita Ristorante remains a home away from home for all lovers of food, art, wine, friends, and most of all family, which is who Aklilu considers everyone dining with the restaurant to be. The house-made desserts, risottos, soups, pasta sauces, and salad dressings are created daily. The restaurant is best known for fresh Italian cuisine. Whether you are in the mood for pasta or a magnificent entrée, you'll find it in Salute e Vita Ristorante's 100-year old Cape Cod Victorian that overlooks the marina waterfront with stunning views of San Francisco. Aklilu has a saying, "at the table, no one grows old."

“God is good with me—I am blessed. I want to give back to the community.”



Left and above: Aklilu hosts an etiquette dinner for the young women of the Delta Academy.

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