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## Going mobile Restaurateur's new truck caters to customers

Luciano Del Signore thought his Bacco Ristorante was too small for catering, so he expanded it last fall to include Bacco Saletta, a private dining facility.

Still, that wasn't enough.

Del Signore wanted more flexibility and a personal touch for himself, while catering meals at customers' homes.

So he decided to build a catering truck. A big catering truck.

He ordered a truck from Mercedes Benz, then had ABS Refrigeration in Detroit work on it after he developed a design. "It took six months to build it," Del Signore said.

Today Del Signore has a mobile on-site catering service, a "kitchen on wheels" in his new 20-foot-long Mercedes Benz truck, complete with work tables, assembly space, a commercially refrigerated section and climate-controlled areas.

Del Signore said about 48 square feet of area is dedicated to refrigeration. Another 8 by 6 foot area devoted to kitchen operations includes four double induction burners, warming units and countertop space.

The burners allow for sauce preparation, critical to any Italian pasta dish. The truck can cater any size soiree, from a dinner party of 12 at a home, to 200-300 in a larger facility.

Black is the color symbolic of Bacco, so the truck was ordered in black. Bacco means the god of wine, Del Signore said.

"With the catering we were doing, you need different ingredients," Del Signore said. "In July and August, you can't just ice (food) down. That refrigeration unit

will allow foods to arrive in perfect condition. We get the product in perfect condition and we want it to arrive at the home in perfect condition. That's because of the commercial refrigeration."

"We also do retail wine sales. If it has to be delivered at 55 degrees, (the truck) does it."

Bacco catering is able to accommodate smaller, intimate meals to large parties of up to 500 people.

"We do everything from casual barbecues to elaborate, large-scale parties complete with flowers and decorations. We can prepare signature eight-course Italian dinners with matching wines," Del Signore said.

Bacco Ristorante is located at 29410 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield. For information, call (248) 356-6600.

-By Ken Abramczyk