

# James Lane

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14

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Jenna L. and Rosanna Scotto  
Photo: David P. Pappalardo

## Rosanna Scotto & Family

By Jessica Mackin-Cipro

**S**outhampton resident Rosanna Scotto balances a career in media with her family-run restaurant, Fresco by Scotto, which has been a staple in Midtown since 1993. We spoke to Rosanna to learn more about her family endeavor.

**Fresco by Scotto is a true family affair. What inspired your family to open a restaurant together?**

We've always done everything as a family — loud conversations, Sunday dinners, even arguments! So opening a restaurant together

felt like a natural extension of who we are. In 1993, we saw an opportunity to bring that Italian warmth and hospitality to Midtown Manhattan. We wanted to create a place where people felt like part of the family the moment they walked in — whether they were power-lunching or out celebrating.

**What role did food play in your home growing up — and how did that shape the restaurant's vision?**

Food was everything in our home. My mother's kitchen was the heart of the house. It wasn't just about eating — it was about

gathering, sharing stories, showing love. That spirit shaped every part of Fresco by Scotto. We wanted the menu to reflect the comfort of those home-cooked meals, elevated with the elegance and energy of New York. The recipes may be more refined, but the soul is straight from our kitchen table in Brooklyn.

**You have a full career in media — how do you juggle that with being such a visible part of the restaurant?**

It's definitely a balancing act — but I thrive in high heels and high energy. I'm up at the crack of dawn for Good Day New York, then I'll often head over to Fox News, and of course, you'll find me finishing my nights at Fresco — when I'm not emceeing other events for causes dear to my heart! The truth is, I love it. Being present at the restaurant keeps me grounded — it reminds me of what really matters: family, good food, good people, and a lot of heart.

**How would you describe the vibe and experience you want guests to have at Fresco by Scotto?**

Fresco is classic New York with a big Italian soul. It's elegant but never stuffy — a place where celebrities, CEOs, and cousins from Brooklyn all feel at home. We want guests to walk in and feel that buzz — the music's right, the drinks are flowing, the food is irresistible. And if we're doing our job right, you're laughing, you're lingering, and you're already planning your next visit before dessert even hits the table. On top of it all, nothing is better than having my two children, Jenna and LJ, with me — always inventing new dishes and creating the most fun nights.

**What dish do you recommend to first-time guests — and what's your personal go-to dish from the menu?**

For first-timers, I always say start with Mama Scotto's Meatball — her balls are juicy, tender, outright addictive, and have been on the menu since day one. Then go for Larry's Lemon Pasta — it's creamy, bright, and has a cult following for a reason. Personally, I can't resist our Chicken Milanese — it's crisp, comforting, and pairs perfectly with a glass of rosé and a little gossip at the bar.

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