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# ZINNA'S bistro

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Presents





## Delightful Dining Designs & Decorations

Explore the designs and decorations of Zinna's Bistro to learn about our history and to help bring the Zinna's dining experience to life!

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### Roosters

In 1478, the Medici family in Italy sent each of the peasant families of Gallina a ceramic rooster as a symbol of good luck, protection, and prosperity. This symbolism is represented today at Zinna's Bistro with our collection of roosters, including many of which have been donated by our committed guests.

#### **When you are at Zinna's, you are part of the family.**

30 of the roosters in our collection came from a great guest who had them tucked away, saw our collection and dropped them off as a gift. She only asked that the roosters be displayed for all to enjoy. Now that's family!

Several roosters were also donated by the owners' aunt Bonnie and Sandy!



### 1940s Canoe

This 16-foot old town canoe was hand-crafted during the fall of 1945 through the winter of 1946 and purchased by Herbert F. Grote of New Brunswick, New Jersey. Herbert, a WWI veteran, ran



his own canoe and rowboat rental business until his death in 1967. The canoe is a 'Yankee' model with ash decks and open spruce gunwales. The build was completed on October 1, 1945, with varnishing and coloring (painting) continuing into December of that year. Canoe NO. 142,870 was completed on January 2, 1946, and featured a dark green finish exterior to complement the varnished wood interior.

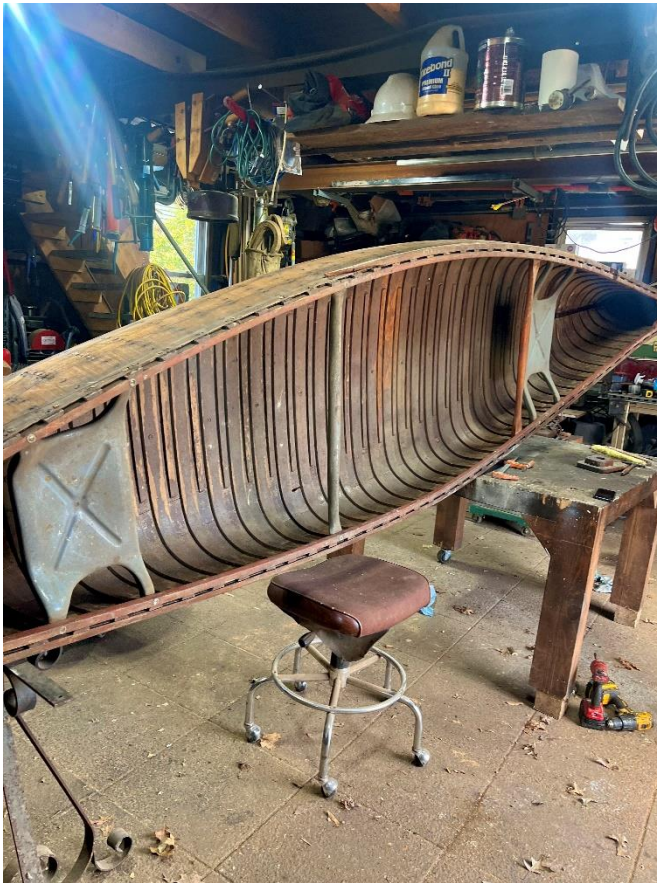


In this photo, the canoe's initial deep green finish is revealed, a stark contrast to its current weathered beauty.



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This snapshot offers a glimpse into the garage of Uncle Doug, a dear friend of the Zinna family, where his and Chris Zinna's collaborative effort prepared this remarkable piece for its grand suspension from our restaurant's ceiling.

The image to the right displays the official paperwork capturing the meticulously documented journey of crafting and shipping the canoe, bearing the seal of approval from the Wood Canoe Heritage Association (WCHA). Within these historic papers, a comprehensive narrative of the canoe's finishing process is provided.

SHIPPED March 12, 1946		Canoe No. 142570 X
To Order of O.T.C.Co.		Our Order No. 3494
Notify: Herbert F. Grote R. F. D. #1		Your Order No. 5530
New Brunswick, N.J.		
Via		
Length 16	Half Built	SEP 25 1945
Grade Co Model	Completed	OCT 1 - 1945
Planking w	Hull Varnished	OCT 2 - 1945
Gunwales OPEN SPRUCE	Canvas	OCT 11 1945
Decks Oak	Filled	OCT 11 1945
Thwarts	Stored	
Seats	2nd Filled	NOV 6 - 1945
Half Ribs SEP 25 1945	Stored	
Finish Rails	Railed	DEC 19 1945
Keel DEC 21 1945	Fitted	DEC 22 1945
O. S. Stems SEP 25 1945	Colored	DEC 26 1945
Floor Rack	1st Varnished	DEC 26 1945
Sponsons	2nd Varnished	JAN 2 - 1946
Color DK. GREEN	Stored	
T. P. Co.		





### **Babci's Hutch**

This treasured hutch was built by Chris Zinna's father and mother, who helped sand, stain, and varnish it, as a heartfelt gift to his grandmother—or "Babci". Following her passing, the family heirloom found a new purpose within the walls of our restaurant, adding a touch of familial history to the ambiance.



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### Large Billow

The large billow that sits atop one of the hutches in our dining room was originally built in the early 1800's. The billow, which was donated by Chris Zinna's uncle Joe, was taken out of a foundry in Trenton, NJ and relocated to Zinna's Bistro.



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### Sewing Machine POS Stand

Although it hasn't produced any clothing in quite some time, this vintage Singer sewing machine comes equipped with a foot pedal that is still fully operational! The wooden slab on top of it is maple wood originating from a tree removal job done in Ewing township. The stand was assembled by Doug Noebels (better known as Uncle Doug), a good friend of the Zinna's family.







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### **Famiglia e Amici**

This Italian expression directly translates to “Family and Friends”. The ash wood comes from a tree removal job done by owner, Chris Zinna, in Somerset County. After transporting the wood, it was finished, and the letters were added by Chris himself to create this beloved sign.





## Wooden Tree Sculpture

The intricate twisting and winding branches of this tree sculpture were crafted from electrical wire. The design was then plastered on a slab of wood from a cherry tree. The piece was provided by our good friend, Doug Noebels (Uncle Doug).



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### **Tutti al Tavolo**

This Italian phrase translates to “Everyone at the table”. It reflects the warm and inclusive spirit of Italian dining culture, in which the community gathers to share delicious meals and create cherished memories together. The foundation of the piece was brought over from a sign previously used at the old Zinna's Bistro location on South River Road, and the letters were provided by Bruce Tallon at Brunswick Sign.



**Butter Churner**

Once fully functional and in use, this butter churner was found at a garage sale and donated by Doug Noebels (Uncle Doug). While traditional butter churners may not be a common sight in modern Italian dining, they evoke a sense of nostalgia and remind us of the timeless culinary traditions that will forever continue to influence the Italian dining experience.





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### Whiskey and Wine Barrel

These are real whiskey and wine barrels purchased by the owners of Zinna's Bistro at a garage sale. Barrels such as these play an essential part in shaping the flavors and aromas of some of our favorite beverages. Through the process of barrel aging, whiskey gains its complexity and richness; and wine achieves great depth and character through the same process.





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### Cork Screws

These corkscrew-like structures, donated by Robert Barnes, were once part of a grain bin and were assembled by Chris Zinna and his Uncle Doug. They cut and fastened the handles before transporting the structures to this restaurant. Grain bins are essential agricultural structures used to store and protect harvested grains that are vital ingredients in the food we eat every day.





## **Wine Vines**

After deciding to deviate from traditional cork artwork, owner Chris Zinna chose to go a more unique route. Fascinated by the look of grape vines cascading throughout a vineyard, he was compelled to bring that same effect indoors. Using empty wine bottles left behind by guests, Chris built the entirety of these intricate structures by hand and mounted them up on the walls and ceilings.



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### Milk Jugs

Vintage milk jugs such as these are nostalgic relics of a time when milk was delivered door-to-door in charming collectible containers. These particular milk jugs were donated to us by two of our appreciated guests, Tom and Carol.







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### Field Plow

This vintage John Deere field plow was found at a garage sale before being brought to Zinna's Bistro to decorate our on-sight garden. John Deere field plows have been a cornerstone of efficient farming for generations. Known for their efficiency in turning soil, they continue to be reliable tools for farmers worldwide.





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### Steel-Wheel Tractor

This steel-wheel tractor from Jays Towing and Recovery was donated to the owners of Zinna's Bistro by good friends. Prior to the more modern rubber-tired tractors we see today, these tractors were a common sight on farms in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Steel wheel tractors were an essential step in agricultural mechanization.





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### Tractor

This early 40s John Deere Tractor was picked up by Chris Zinna at an auction. Machines such as this, typically painted in their iconic green and yellow colors, played a pivotal role in modernizing farming practices to be as efficient as they are now. Known for their durability and reliability, these vintage John Deere tractors are admired by collectors and enthusiasts today.





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### **Knight**

This suit of armor was given to us by a former employee, Tracie Conforti. The suit had been in the Conforti household for over a decade, until it was passed on to us at Zinna's Bistro. The night had initially been a gift to Tracie to honor her parents, who were big supporters of the Rutgers Scarlet knights.





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### Wine Box Wall

The Myriad of Wine boxes decorating the walls of our front entrance were all donated to us over time by our great family friends, Ron and Moreen Wood.

We are so thankful to close friends like these for helping us create the lovely atmosphere we have today.





## **Threshing Machine**

Once part of a threshing machine, this wooden barrel was used to remove the husk from wheat. These handy contraptions are also commonly used to separate soybeans, peas, and other seed crops and small grains from their chaff and straw. The piece itself was donated by Chris Zinna's Uncle Doug.



### **Baby Carriage**

This small carriage hails from the home of Babci Lili, the owner's grandmother—where “Babci” affectionately translates to grandmother in polish. The carriage was handmade in the 1940s and is meant not for an actual child, but for a baby doll!



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### Smoker

Acquired at an auction and tailored to our smoking preferences, this vintage smoker is now a rustic adornment to our garden-side patio. Its well-worn charm welcomes guests from the moment they arrive.







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### Pizza Oven

Our restaurant proudly features the first pizza oven of its kind in the United States, imported directly from Italy. In the heart of Italy pizza ovens are revered as the cornerstone of culinary tradition, as they have kept alive century old recipes. Our pizza oven pays homage to this Italian legacy.





### Host Stand

The warm and welcoming atmosphere of our restaurant is embodied in our custom-made host stand, which was crafted by the skilled hands of the Zinna family. As the first thing you encounter when you enter our establishment, this host stand serves as the face of our hospitality.



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### Villa Zinna's

This sign was brought straight from the picturesque island of Ischia, Italy. It is a symbol of our heartfelt commitment to creating an atmosphere that feels like home. Just as a villa represents the warmth and comfort of a personal sanctuary, we strive to make every guest feel like a cherished part of our extended family.





**Plates**

Adorning this wall near the entrance of our restaurant, you'll find a vibrant display of polish handmade plates. Many of these adored pieces were contributed by the owner's grandmother, aunts, and uncles. In addition to these family heirlooms, several plates were graciously given to us by our valued guests, transforming our restaurant into a canvas of memories and shared experiences.



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### Block and Tackle

The block and tackle hanging from the ceiling at the entrance of our restaurant served as a vital tool for sailors in their endless quest to conquer the open sea, as they rely on this mechanism to hoist heavy loads. Beyond its use in the water, this block and tackle is symbolic of resilience and teamwork; qualities that resonate strongly with the Zinna's team.





## Dough bowl

This rustic addition to our dining room nook was purchased by Chris Zinna's mother, Landi, in Hagerstown, Maryland. It is a burl bowl, meaning it was made from the large, woody, round swelling on the trunk of a tree. Burl wood is characterized by its unique and unusual grain pattern, which swirls around each bud trace and forms interesting patterns in the wood.



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### Colorful vase

Gracing our restaurant with its timeless elegance, this colorful vase was handcrafted in Italy and given to us by our friend, Alan Summerville.





### Vintage cans

In this cozy corner of our dining room, a stack of vintage cans stands as a charming reminder of a bygone era when packaging was a testament to craftsmanship. These containers evoke a sense of nostalgia for a time before the modern convenience of plastic packaging.





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### Bookcase

At the entrance of our restaurant, a welcoming bookcase stands holding a treasure trove of recipes and cookbooks gathered over the years. We invite our guests to flip through a few pages and immerse themselves in a world of flavors and inspiration!





## Urn

Standing by our restaurant's entrance is this magnificent urn, a unique find acquired at an auction. The piece was made even more special after being painted by the artistic hands of Landi, Chris Zinna's mother.

## Wine tree

The wine tree that stands decorating our on-site garden was a thoughtful gift from our cherished guests. Amid moving homes, these generous guests found the wine tree and thought it would perfectly complement the theme of our restaurant, and they were correct!





### **Wine press**

Before it was donated to us in 2021 by Colin Disbrow, this wine press was a functioning tool in the winemaking process. In Italy, wine presses are not only tools for winemaking, but symbols of tradition, craftsmanship, and the deep connection between food and wine.



### **Vintage coffee pot**

This vintage coffee pot, a relic from the 1940s, found its way to us through an auction; it embodies the timeless charm of classic coffee culture and reminds us of the art of brewing the perfect cup of coffee.



### **Hanging scale**

Originating from a 1940s produce market, this hanging scale was later used at Kingston farms; eventually, it found a permanent home here at Zinna's Bistro. This scale serves as a reminder of the journey that quality ingredients take from the farm to your plate.



## **Apothecary jars**

This collection of eye-catching apothecary jars adorning our wall was acquired at an auction at South River Pharmacy and given to Chris Zinna by his mother from her personal collection. These jars display intricate Latin inscriptions, harkening back to a time when elixirs and remedies were meticulously crafted.



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### Decorations on back walls

On the back walls of our restaurant, you'll find an assortment of various utensils and signs that read "Eat". Even in spaces that only our staff frequents, we believe in creating an environment that is not only practical but also visually appealing.







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### T-shirts

Near the register in our restaurant, you'll notice a slab of black walnut wood which proudly displays three distinct tee-shirt designs. These designs are primarily worn by our staff, but they are available for purchase to the public as well—as our “Legalize Marinara” shirt is very popular amongst guests.





## **Wine Bottle Pole**

These wooden poles decorated in an array of vibrant empty wine bottles line the garden-side seating area of our restaurant. They were created by our owner as a colorful way to keep with our theme of wine-related decor.



### **Bathroom Sign**

Our bathroom doors both feature this lighthearted and inclusive message, displaying a motley crew of very different individuals sharing only the universal need to use the restroom. We want everyone to feel welcome, emphasizing that anyone who needs to use the facilities is encouraged to do so—if you don't forget to wash your hands!



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### Cigarette Cards

In this corner of our restaurant, you'll find a captivating display of collectible native American cigarette cards, popular in the 1900s.



### Picture Frames

The walls outside our restaurant's bathrooms serve as a heartwarming tribute to our owners' family history. Adorned with an arrangement of picture frames, they share a plethora of treasured moments, such as the arrival of Chris Zinna's mom and grandparents to America after immigrating.



These frames not only add a personal touch to our establishment, but also invite our guests to share in the rich tapestry of memories that have shaped our restaurant to be what it is today.



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