



**Jack Weiss**  
**Owner: Coco Pazzo and Coco Pazzo Café**  
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Jack Weiss has proven himself a master of consistency in all areas of restaurant operations thanks to a business background, a knack for details and a simple ease in dealing with people. As owner of Coco Pazzo and Coco Pazzo Café, Jack has dedicated his career to providing Chicago with authentic Tuscan dining for nearly two decades.

After earning an MBA from Baruch at the City College of New York, Jack worked in corporate marketing for 10 years before starting his career in the restaurant business. “There’s just something special about being the author of a classic, refined restaurant,” says Jack. After managing several upscale Italian restaurants in New York, Jack moved to Chicago and opened Coco Pazzo.

When Coco Pazzo debuted in 1992, it was the first Windy City Italian restaurant to focus on the regional cuisine of Tuscany. Jack succeeded in introducing, and then solidifying, Chicago’s interest in this bold, new world of ingredient driven regional Italian cuisine. Jack’s commitment to the ways of traditional Tuscan cooking has resonated with Chicagoans for over 16 years. Coco Pazzo, in Chicago’s River North, and the more casual Coco Pazzo Café, in the Streeterville neighborhood of Chicago, have both become popular critics’ favorites.

Some of Coco Pazzo’s awards include Three Stars from the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun-Times, a DiRona Award (Distinguished Restaurants of North America), an IFMA Award (International Food Manufacturers Association), the Accademia Italia Della Cucina Award, a Wine Enthusiast Award of Distinction, the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence, and were listed in America’s 1,000 Top Italian Restaurants by Zagat.

As a firm believer in supporting the community, Jack and his Coco Pazzo team work with many charitable organizations in Chicago. Since 1998 they have donated food and beverages to many charitable fundraisers, including Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Chicago Gateway Green, America’s Second Harvest, Share our Strength and Children’s Memorial Hospital. He has served on the Advisory Board of the Illinois Restaurant Association and was inducted into the Entrepreneurial Hall of Fame at the University of Illinois in 2003. Jack was honored with Meals on Wheels, Lifetime Achievement Award for his 15 years of service. And finally, in 2008, Jack sponsored a grand benefit at Coco Pazzo to support the creative training ground for Lyric Opera of Chicago, The Ryan Opera Center.