

Aleida Dwarte

Ambiance Ristorante

IWIB Young Business Woman
of the Year 2023

Aleida Dwarte is the co-owner of Ambiance Ristorante in Unanderra, along with her husband John, and recently awarded IWIB Young Business Woman of the Year.



Ambiance is an Italian Restaurant, Café, and Bar open seven days a week for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. They use only fresh and top-quality ingredients to produce stunning seasonal dishes on an ever-changing menu. Their passion is for handmade and fresh pasta, which they make in house each and every day. Along with a passion for pasta, they also love coffee and wine!

Ambiance Ristorante was established in April 2021 right in the middle of the COVID 19 pandemic, proving a challenging landscape to operate in from the get-go. However, with a strong work ethic, ability to adapt their business model and create a sense of community, Aleida and John were able to navigate and thrive in the ever changing and dynamic environment. Not to mention looking after their two young children, George, and Natasha. Through all of the recent global challenges, they were able to come out on top with a much more grounded and sustainable business to propel them into the future. Ambiance Ristorante was awarded the Australian Good Food Guide's Readers' Choice Award for best Italian Restaurant Illawarra and Wollongong 2023.

Aleida is involved in a range of Illawarra community initiatives and has plans for more.

Aleida is a part of the Tullimbar Community Garden where she grows produce, her business sponsors the Port Kembla Pumas Soccer club, and is involved in the Illawarra Quota assisting with fund raising efforts and providing toys for the Unanderra Community Centre toy drive.

One of the most outstanding, and highly commended by the judges at this years Awards is her own initiative "Christmas Eve Dinner" – this is an annual dinner held for those underprivileged and vulnerable in our local community in which they are given a free three-course fine dining experience.

This is done by networking with St Vincent de Paul, Unanderra Community Centre, Women Illawarra, and Illawarra Community Mental Health Service using their networks to contact those who are in need to invite for a free dinner.

Aleida and her husband John have young children and are successfully juggling running the business and family.