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An athlete's gotta eat. Serena Williams at Porto Vivo in Huntington with owners Joy Mangano and Phillip Seipelt

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AN ACE IN HUNTINGTON

Open less than two weeks, **Porto Vivo** already is Huntington's buzz central, with tennis star Serena Williams stopping in for dinner last Friday. She dined on steamed littleneck clams and grilled branzino.

Situated in a former antiques shop on the edge of an industrial street, Porto Vivo has a polite touch of city grittiness. Maybe there's a new acronym in the making, north of Main Street: NoMa. But inside the eatery, it is all about the sleek and the contemporary.

The multilevel restaurant comes from Home Shopping Network star Joy Mangano, who has generated plenty of ink, and executive chef Steven Lecchi, who's sparked even more by being personal chef to Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony. Clearly, they ate well if he made them caponata and grilled fennel, braised short-rib tortelloni and mushroom risotto.

Early on, there are some lapses, from saucing (a murky number wrecks an open raviolo of shellfish) to overcooking (very dry pork roulade). But the creamy cheesecake keeps your fork active. Very accommodating, very good service, too.

Porto Vivo rises at 7 Gerard St., east of New York Avenue; 631-385-8486.

— PETER M. GIANOTTI

TAPAS AT THE MANSION

The Delano Mansion, the stylish, eclectic restaurant in that great house on the Town of Oyster Bay golf course,

will specialize in tapas starting Oct. 1.

The new place will be called **The International Tapas Room at The Delano**, according to general manager Joseph Scalice. The more flexible, small-plate menus, based on the Spanish tradition of tapas, let diners choose casual samplers as well as more extensive, four-, five- or six-course tasting dinners. The new approach will be coupled with some Art Deco additions to the decor.

The preliminary menu choices include Asian, European, Latin and New American selections, from barbecued hanger steak and shellfish paella to hoisin-duck dumplings, smoked salmon-and-brie quesadilla, tomato-and-lobster risotto cake and sweet corn bisque. It also will offer wine-and-food pairings.

The Delano Mansion is expected to close for about a week in advance of the Tapas Room opening.

The restaurant is at 1 Southwoods Rd., Woodbury; 516-921-5707.

— PETER M. GIANOTTI

BYE-BYE THAI

One of my favorite Thai restaurants, **Chaophaya** in Kings Park, has closed.

When I called Chaophaya's number, the phone was answered by an employee of the restaurant that will soon replace it, **Siam Thai**. When? "Three more days."

I asked about the people who owned Chaophaya (turns out they're related to the new owner) and was told they probably will be opening a restaurant in Hempstead soon. Encouraging news.

— JOAN REMINICK

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