

Brazilian restaurant group to debut Italian chain in C. Fla.

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A Brazilian chain of Italian restaurants is expanding into the U.S. — with its first eatery coming to Orlando.

Spoletto — which has restaurants in Brazil, Mexico and Costa Rica — in January will open its first restaurant in the U.S. at Plaza on University, the mixed-use development across from the [University of Central Florida](#) in east Orlando. The 2,260-square-foot restaurant at 12101 University Blvd. will seat 65 and have an average ticket of \$9-\$12 for a meal and drink, said a news release.

And that's not all. Spoleto will open a second eatery near Performance Bicycles on U.S. Highway 17-92 in Winter Park, with the goal of opening between March and April, said [Tim Holcomb](#) of Orlando-based TCreative Inc., which is handling branding and marketing on behalf of the restaurant group.

In fact, Holcomb said Spoleto could open up to 10 locations in Central Florida in the next couple years.

"We've figured out how to retool this concept for the American market," Holcomb said of how Americans might react to an Italian concept from Brazil. "Brazil is home to the largest population of Italians outside of Italy. We want to bring that concept to the masses in the U.S."

The chain is looking for endcaps, inline space and pads ranging 2,500-3,000 square feet in neighborhoods. [Joseph Gamb](#) of [CBRE](#) Inc. is project manager, while Bobby Palta also of CBRE is Spoleto's real estate representative.

Spoletto is a fast-casual concept offering pasta, flatbreads, salads and soups made with fresh and some organic ingredients with up to 30 toppings to customize diners' meals. The chain has 380 locations in Brazil, Mexico and Costa Rica. See [more on the concept in this video](#).

