

*IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TRIP OF THE YEAR!*

**MAZZARO'S ITALIAN MARKET**  
**&**  
**ENCHANT CHRISTMAS or ST. PETE PIER**

**MONDAY DECEMBER 18 10 AM- 9:30 PM**

Last year on our December trip we skipped the beach mostly because the temperature can be a bit chilly. Instead we chose to indulge in food and shopping, two of our favorite things. Shopping at **Mazzaro's Italian Market**, located in St. Petersburg, is a world-class event. Also, again this year to get us all in the Christmas spirit we are offering the option to spend some time at "**Enchant Christmas**," an illuminated winter wonderland. For those who want to walk a little less and avoid the maze of amazing lights at Enchant, dinner at the beautiful St. Pete Pier awaits.

So, let's skip the beach and treat ourselves to some fantastic food, shopping, lights, and Christmas magic. Bring your appetite for scrumptious Italian delicacies and bring a child-like imagination in order to fully embrace a winter wonderland all in St. Petersburg. In only a two hour bus ride you will enjoy all that "Mazzaro's Italian Market" and "Enchant Christmas," have to share.

As beachlovers we are geared for exploring. Mazzaro's is an Italian cuisine fine food market. Why not search for your perfect cheese, olives, deli sandwich, bakery items, bread, handmade pasta, wine, or a pre-made dinner delight? Almost everything at Mazzaro's will make a perfect Christmas gift. If you want a preview peek: [www.mazzarosmarket.com/tour-mazzaros](http://www.mazzarosmarket.com/tour-mazzaros). If you've never been there, you simply must go once. And once you've visited, you'll be planning your next trip back.

Mazzaro's Market began as a wholesale business in 1993. They sold fresh roasted coffee, brewed from a 1918 roster that was purchased in Orlando. In 1996 they acquired Fridella sausage and the building along 22nd avenue. From there, with lots of hard work and a passion

to succeed, Mazzaro's built a special place where you can now find delicious, fresh, imported, and local ingredients.

You can pre-order Christmas gifts from Mazzaro's to pick up on 12/18 via their website. We will be sure to have plenty of ice in our BBC coolers on the bus to keep all of our purchases cold.

<https://www.mazzarosmarket.com/>

Discovering these wonderful products is a savory experience but the fun does not stop here. Just across the parking lot is Casa di Mazzaro which opened in 2013. Casa di Mazzaro is an exclusive kitchenware store. The store displays an extensive selection of kitchen items, including gourmet specialty items, gifts and more than 40 flavors of loose teas. They also stock numerous high-end brands of cookware and kitchen supplies that you will not find anywhere else in the Tampa area. Whether you love to cook, are a casual cook, or a professional chef, Casa di Mazzaro's has everything for your kitchen. Another perfect shopping opportunity! <https://casadimazzaro.com>

We do need to mention that Mazzaro's management has told us that the week of Christmas is their ABSOLUTE BUSIEST TIME. It will be crowded; we may have to wait in line just to get into the market, and it will be slow-going once inside. But like all good things, it will be worth the wait.

We will plan to spend close to four hours at Mazzaro's and Casa di Mazzaro. If you plan to have lunch at Mazzaro's we encourage you to pre-order your meal for patio pick-up on the morning of the trip. The specials of the day are NOT on the menu until morning. Those of you going to Enchant may wish to have an early dinner on Mazzaro's patio. We do anticipate that the food prices at Enchant Christmas will be on the high side, so you may wish to enjoy a deli meal from Mazzaro's instead and just treat yourself to dessert at Enchant Christmas.

## **ENCHANT CHRISTMAS**

We will make a 10 minute drive to Enchant Christmas and arrive when it opens for the evening at 4:30pm. This magical wonderland is housed at the Tropicana- Field, a dazzling exhibit of illuminated lights all intertwined in a holiday village.

Enchant Christmas is the world's largest indoor Christmas light spectacular featuring over 4 million dazzling lights and a 100 foot tall holiday tree will definitely get you into the Christmas spirit.

At Enchant Christmas, you will experience the glittery walk thru maze, an ice skating trail, live entertainment, Santa visits, Enchant also features a holiday shopping marketplace with crafts, gifts, and culinary treats. The backstory of how Enchant started is also heart-warming. <https://www.enchantmagic.com/story>

This year at Enchant Christmas there is an all new light maze called, "**Reindeer Games**," where the forest animal friends of Santa's reindeer thought it would be fun to fly Santa's sleigh for a mischievous moment. This captivating, larger-than-life, light maze is the cornerstone to the Enchant Christmas experience. It really is a must-see on many holiday lists. For a preview: <https://enchantchristmas.com/st-petersburg-fl-tropicana-field/> There are festive treats and irresistibly delightful drinks at "The Enchant Village!" but be warned that they are not economical.

Discounted Group Ticket Prices: \$29 + 7% tax, or \$31.03 per person

Optional Ice skating \$15

(Hard to imagine, but these prices are LESS than last year!)

<https://enchantchristmas.com/st-petersburgfl-tropicana-field/>

We are collecting the ticket price in advance to secure the best price for you and so that we can pre-pay your entry and avoid a wait at the entrance. Tickets can be transferred to another person but will not be refundable.

Once we have dropped the Enchant folks off at Tropicana Field, we will take those guests who do not care to go to Enchant Christmas to the St. Pete's Pier for dinner.

#### **Restaurants at St. Pete's Pier:**

Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grill; <http://www.docfords.com/menu/> They offer a seafood based menu which is quite extensive and is reasonably priced.

Driftwood Cafe; <https://driftwoodcafestpete.com/>; Serves sandwiches, pizza, breads, muffins & pastries with mochas, lattes, teas, and 20 flavors of shaved ice.

Fresco's Waterfront Bistro; <https://www.frescoswaterfront.com/food-menu> Lots of seafood but also pasta dishes, steaks, and handhelds.

Pier Teaki; <https://pierteaki.com/> Rooftop bar that overlooks the water . A full service high-end bar with light appetizer fare that you might be able to turn into dinner.

Spa Beach Bistro; <https://www.spabeachbistro.com/menus> No spa in sight, so no foot rub while you dine. This is an outdoor cafe in the middle of the pier serving pizza, specialty fries, salads, and desserts.

Teak; <https://teakstpete.com/dinner/>; Located on the 4th floor at the end of the Pier, elevated casual dining.

Or you can wander across the street but no more than a couple of blocks from the Pier and find these spots;

Bella Brava; [bellabrava.com/cena](http://bellabrava.com/cena) They serve pizza and fine Italian meals. Do not look at this menu if you are hungry...it has pop up photos of the entrees!

Parkshore Grill; [parkshoregrill.com](http://parkshoregrill.com) A bit more upscale in menu and pricing.

Stillwaters Tavern; [stillwaterstavern.com](http://stillwaterstavern.com) Dinner fare and 20 brews on tap.

Tryst Gastro Lounge; [dinetrust.com](http://dinetrust.com) Mediterranean fare; farm to table philosophy, prime beef sliders....the menu is making me very very hungry.

Before heading back to The Villages, we will round all of the beach elves up from the Pier and Enchant and make our merry way home.