

# **“It's the Most Wonderful Trip of the Year”**

## ***MAZZARO'S ITALIAN MARKET & ENCHANT CHRISTMAS***

**Monday December 19, 2022**

**10:00 am - 9:30 pm**

Our club does not normally take a trip in December because it can be chilly at the beach, many Villagers are out of town and it is a busy time. But this year, we thought we would introduce you to a world-class destination in St. Petersburg that doesn't involve sand or water. Then while looking around St. Pete for a Christmas market (just in case you haven't gotten all of your shopping done yet), we found yet another 'best of the best' events that is getting rave reviews in all 9 cities that are hosting it.

So, we'll skip the beach and treat ourselves to some fantastic food, shopping and Christmas magic. Bring your appetite for scrumptious Italian delicacies and your childlike imagination to St. Petersburg. In only a two hour bus ride you will enjoy all that "Mazzaro's Italian Market and 'Enchant Christmas,' an illuminated winter wonderland, 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 item, bread, handmade pasta, wine or a pre-made dinner delight? Almost everything at Mazzaro's would make a perfect Christmas gift as well.

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 could also pre-order Christmas gifts to pick up on 12/19 via their website. We'll be sure to have plenty of ice to keep all of our purchases safe for the whole trip.

<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, more than 40 flavors of loose teas and gifts. 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 has everything for your kitchen. Another perfect gift 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'll plan to spend three+ hours at Mazzaro's and if the crowd allows, some of you may wish to have an early dinner on their patio. If the market is crazy busy, and enough of you want to eat prior to arriving at Enchant at 4:30pm, we have a St. Pete park on the water as a backup plan. We do anticipate that the food prices at Enchant 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.

We will make a 10 minute drive to Enchant Christmas and arrive as they open for the evening at 4:30pm. This magical wonderland is housed at The Tropicana Field – a dazzling exhibit of illuminated lights within a holiday village.

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.

This year Enchant will be joined by its first ever national sponsor, The Hallmark Channel. They will provide a lounge, photo opportunities, wine tasting, and a chance to win a set visit to a Hallmark movie in production. It's hard to imagine that this grew out of a goodwill gesture when, in 2008, two Canadian teens in helped a neighbor put up their Christmas lights. The first event was in Vancouver, BC in 2016. This year, there will be 9 Enchant exhibits in 8 cities - Nashville, Dallas, 2 in LasVegas, Sacramento, San Jose, Scottsdale, Washington, DC and.... St. Petersburg.

At Enchant you will experience the glittery walk thru maze, an ice skating trail, live entertainment, Santa visits, and a holiday shopping marketplace with crafts, gifts and culinary treats.

Ticket prices                      \$33.92 (tax included)

Ice skating                              \$18.00 (skates included)

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

We are collecting the ticket price in advance to secure the most discounted price for you. Tickets can be transferred to another person, but will not be refundable.

The bus will leave for The Villages at 7:30 pm, arriving at @ 9:30pm.

Tentative schedule for 12/19 ~

10:00am – depart for St. Pete from Hope Lutheran Church

12:00 – Arrive at Mazzaro's

(Depending on the crowd at Mazzaro's and the member reponse, eat at Mazzaro's or a St. Pete park)

4:15 – leave Mazzaro's for Tropicana Field for Enchant

4:30 – doors open at Enchant

7:30 – depart for The Villages, arriving at @ 9:30pm