

---

---

# MONTENAPO

RISTORANTE DELLA MODA

---

---

## **JOZEF JUCK** *Managing Partner*

Jozef Juck is truly living the American dream. At 1967, when he was 18, he escaped from the former communist country of Czechoslovakia with his good friend Henry Kallan, in search of a better life. After spending sometime in Austria, they each came to America in 1968. With little to no English, they both found work as busboys at Brasserie, the highly celebrated New York City eatery run by Restaurant Associates. Thus, from such a humble start, their distinguished careers in hospitality began, which, more than 40 years from the start of their journey, would bring them full circle.

After Juck completed his English course at Hunter College, he was offered a management trainee position with Restaurant Associates at The Tower Suite, across from Rockefeller Center. After a couple of years, eager to advance, he was offered the position of Food and Beverage Controller at the Plaza Hotel, and soon his friend Kallan got a position at the front desk of the Plaza as well. From there, Juck went on to manage Luchow's and then the Princeton Club, before moving to Dallas, Texas to run Brennan's, a legendary family run operation based in New Orleans.

His passion for cooking and managing the food and beverage operations of restaurants and hotels, led him to owning his own restaurants. Within a few years, Juck became one of Dallas' most successful restaurateurs with four thriving businesses: two locations of Jozef's Seafood Restaurant; a Mexican restaurant called Café Fajitas and Bar; and the Northern Italian favorite, La Pergola.

In 1989, the restaurateur was ready to embrace a new lifestyle, so he moved to Honolulu, Hawaii where he managed Tom Selleck's Black Orchid Restaurant, and later the Tahitian Lanai, a 250 room hotel and restaurant. After ten years in Hawaii, he relocated to Ridgefield, Connecticut to run, for more than seven years, the Stonehenge Inn, an historic restaurant and country inn.

No matter where he worked, Juck always approached every task with enthusiasm and integrity maintaining a standard of excellence where guests were treated as if they were at home. But when his childhood friend, now President and owner of HKHotels, wanted him to launch a new property in Prague called the Aria, he had some trepidation about a move back to his homeland. Thankfully, it turned out, what is now The Czech Republic, wasn't anything like it was when he fled more than 35 years before. During his 18 months as manager, the Aria was deemed one of the finest hotels in Europe.

---

---

# MONTENAPO

RISTORANTE DELLA MODA

---

---

When Kallan sold his interests in the Aria Hotel, he introduced Juck to the owners of his favorite restaurant in Manhattan –BICE -located just a block from Hotel Elysee, one of his four hotels in the city. For the next four years, Juck managed BICE further solidifying his reputation as one of the best in the business.

In 2008, the two men teamed up again – this time with Juck as managing partner and co-owner with HK Hotels & Hospitality for a new venture – Montenapo Restaurant, opening in April, 2009 in the New York Times Building.