



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Portage resident Rich Posiadliak (right) poses with "Check, Please" host Alpana Singh and two other guests on the set.

# Lucrezia's in spotlight

'Check, Please' to feature Chesterton restaurant, longtime patron

By MIKE TRUAX

Post-Tribune correspondent

For five years, Rich Posiadliak and his wife, Judi, have quietly enjoyed the food and wine selections at Lucrezia's in Chesterton.

This weekend, the Portage man will publicly brag about the restaurant, 428 S. Calumet Ave., to all of the Chicagoland area — on public television.

Posiadliak is one of three people who will tout their favorite eateries on WTTW-Channel 11's "Check, Please" show. Also being reviewed are El Barco and X/O, both in Chicago.

The show, in its fifth year, is a coproduction of WTTW and Semaphore Media. The host is Alpana Singh.

Posiadliak said nominating Lucrezia's was something he had to do.

"I am a regular viewer of the show and my wife, Judi, and I have frequented the restaurant for about five years," Posiadliak said. "It was natural that I brag them up to the show."



Rich Posiadliak got his makeup applied before chatting about his favorite restaurant, Lucrezia's in Chesterton, on "Check, Please."

Posiadliak said they usually order from the list of daily specials that Chef Alfredo Anguiano and his crew concoct or choose some of the appetizers and wine, for which the restaurant is known.

"We don't have many choices locally for this type of cuisine," Posiadliak said. "We enjoy the whole package —

the food, the ambiance and the fact that we are never rushed. It's the kind of meals we cook at home."

This is not the first time a Northwest Indiana restaurant is being featured on the show.

"Our first restaurant review in Indiana was Louie's Bon Appetit in Crown Point several years ago," Dave Manilow, show creator and

## If you watch

"Check, Please" airs on WTTW Channel 11 at 8 tonight, 4:30 and 11 p.m. on Saturday and 10:30 p.m. on Sunday.

executive producer, said. "Next was Miller Bakery Cafe in Gary and now Lucrezia's in Chesterton."

Nor is this the first time that Lucrezia's owners — Nada and Michael Karas — will be associated with the show.

The Karases were present as patrons in Miller Bakery Cafe the day the "Check, Please" show was taped there. In addition, their second location, in Crown Point, is in the same Victorian house formerly occupied by Louie's Bon Appetit when that show aired.

Manilow said Lucrezia's was brought to his attention by several letters and e-mails, but the one from Posiadliak caught his eye.

Please see LUCREZIA'S, Page E4

## LUCREZIA'S

Continued from Page E1

"I really liked the way Rich talked about the restaurant and his experiences there," Manilow said.

Nada Karas said some Chicagoans already know of the restaurant.

"We get a lot of Chicagoans in here," she said. "Many of them go to the Notre Dame games and since we are about the midpoint of the trip, we are a natural choice for stopping at. South Bend gets too congested after a game.

"We also have a great following of local people, like Rich, who come regularly," Karas said.

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**Nada Karas**  
co-owner of Lucrezia's

She credits much of their popularity to the staff and the freshness of the food.

Karas said they are bringing in several televisions Friday night so patrons can watch the program.

"And plenty of bubbly will flow," Karas promised with a chuckle.