

FOOD

CT couple wins \$16K trip to Italy in contest for Frank Pepe's 100th anniversary

By **Declan Walsh**, Staff Writer
Updated Sep 12, 2025 12:47 p.m.



Employees make pizza at Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana in New Haven on Nov. 6, 2024.
Lisa Nichols/Hearst Connecticut Media Group

Frank Pepe's, perhaps the most prominent institution in a state that proclaims itself pizza capital of the United States, has helped fund a pizza pilgrimage for one Avon couple.

Vince and Lisa LoPresti won an all-inclusive, eight-day trip to Italy — a \$16,000 jaunt that includes stops in Tuscany and Cinque Terre — in a contest run by the pizzeria. The couple, who are regulars at the Frank Pepe's location in West Hartford, also received 100 pizzas from the pizzeria, awarded via a \$3,600 gift card.



Employees make pizza at Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana in New Haven.
Courtesy of Frank Pepe's

"With Vince's great-grandparents from Sicily, this trip is truly a dream come true," the couple said in a news release. "We are excited to experience the culture, history and incredible food Italy has to offer."

The sweepstakes comes as a result of a partnership between Frank Pepe's and [Tauck](#), a Connecticut-based luxury travel company that curated the Italian vacation. While the LoPrestis claimed the grand prize, the Frank Pepe's and Tauck sweepstakes also awarded \$100 Frank Pepe's gift cards to 25 first-prize winners and \$25 gift cards to 100 second-prize winners.

The LoPrestis received their grand prize at Frank Pepe's West Hartford location Wednesday afternoon, capping off a generous summer as the pizzeria celebrated its 100th anniversary. Most notably, Frank Pepe's gave away a 2024 Italian Fiat 500E as part of a June sweepstakes, but the pizzeria has also offered up a pair of his-and-hers

Bianchi bikes, an Italian De'Longhi coffee maker, a VIP Pizza Tour with Taste of New Haven, and [numerous free pizzas](#).

"This anniversary has been about more than just celebrating a number, it's been about celebrating the people who have made Frank Pepe's what it is today," Jennifer Bimonte-Kelly, the granddaughter of Frank Pepe, said in a news release. "The LoPresti are part of that story, and it's a joy to see them take home the grand prize in such a special year."

<https://www.ctinsider.com/food/article/frank-pepes-pizza-italy-trip-giveaway-lopresti-21043898.php>