

West Village Jazz Restaurant Caffe Vivaldi Will Close After 35 Years

It's been locked in legal battles with its landlord since 2011

by [Kayla Kumari Upadhyaya](#) | Jun 7, 2018, 10:44am EDT



Caffe Vivaldi | Photo via [Instagram/Caffe Vivaldi](#)

Caffe Vivaldi, the West Village Italian restaurant featuring live jazz, **will close at the end of the month** after serving food and music for more than three decades.

It opened at 32 Jones St. in 1983 and survived a massive rent hike in 2011 after notoriously crooked landlord Steve Croman **tripled the rent**. The restaurant got **locked in another legal battle** with Croman in 2016 that put it in danger of closing. Then in April of this year, owner **Ishrat Ansari published** an update about the restaurant's ongoing disputes with Croman, who was **sentenced to a year in jail** for grand larceny, tax fraud, and mortgage fraud in 2017. In the update, Ansari notes the stroke he had two weeks before a crucial court hearing about the restaurant's future.

The restaurant posted a statement on its [website](#) about the reasons for closure, as [Gothamist first reported](#): “In brief: our legal and financial difficulties with our landlord came to a head this spring. To continue to fight would be self-destructive in many, many ways for the business and for all of us.”

There’s also a call for people to [share their personal stories](#) about Caffè Vivaldi on the website, where over a dozen patrons and former employees have shared their thoughts about the restaurant’s legacy and its impending closure. The restaurant is known for its live jazz performances and pasta-heavy menu, acting as both a romantic neighborhood spot and a place for musicians across the city to perform.

The last day will be June 23rd.

- [West Village Relic Caffè Vivaldi Is Going Out Of Business](#) [Gothamist]
- [Endangered 30 Year-Old Caffè Vivaldi Launches Petition](#) [ENY]
- [The Fight to Save Caffè Vivaldi, Foodtown Battles Whole Foods, and More Intel](#) [ENY]
- [Loathed Landlord Steve Croman Headed For Jail After Felony Guilty Plea](#) [Gothamist]

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