

## Faedos bring tastes of Tampa back to a storefront



Arielle Waldman, Times Staff Writer

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Whether working out of a food truck or a brick and mortar, Michelle Faedo and her husband Robert have always served Tampanian cuisine.

"I am a Tampa girl and that's what I was raised with," Faedo said. "Our sandwiches are hand-made, infused with the flavors we grew up with."

The concept, which holds awards for the best Cuban sandwich, started in the back kitchen of a mom-and-pop grocery store in 1996 as Faedo's Deli.

Eventually the husband-and-wife duo expanded into Ybor City to operate their own restaurant.

Five years ago, they moved out of the storefront and into the food truck, Michelle Faedo's on the Go.

"Moving into the food truck has been really eye opening," Michelle Faedo said. "I love the truck but when you're busy and only have a three hour span to feed everyone, it can be a lot."

"We serve up to 200 deviled crabs and 150 empanadas. That's all I can fit in there."

In June, space will no longer be a problem as the Faedo's will celebrate the grand opening of their new 1,450 square-foot restaurant, Michelle Faedo's Tampeño Cuisine, located in Encore Tampa!, a downtown mix-used development, being installed in the bottom floor of Ella, a senior living facility.

"We will give everyone a little taste of what they remember from when we had our restaurant," Faedo said. "We'll be adding our Spanish bean soup, gumbos and chowders (crab corn and New England clam chowder) that we used to do. We'll have an Italian day, seafood Fridays with paella and shrimp pasta and fresh salads (grab and go). Plus, we'll have our sandwiches made fresh constantly whenever they want."

The theme of the new restaurant will reflect their Tampa roots and the new menu will focus even more on one of their specialties: devil crabs.

A grand opening will take place the second or third week of June at 1210 E Ray Charles Blvd. To stay up to date and for more information, visit [facebook.com/Michelle-Faedos-On-The-Go-14145623592592](https://facebook.com/Michelle-Faedos-On-The-Go-14145623592592).

A barbershop and new Westshore Pizza location are under contract in the Encore space as well.

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Michelle Faedo's husband Robert and her two daughters stand in front of their new restaurant, Michelle Faedo's Tampeño Cuisine. Photo courtesy of Michelle Faedo.

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