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## TJ'S SOLD TO HPC

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**Hopewell:** The well-known restaurant, bar and pizzeria known as "TJ's Trattoria", 25 Route 31 South, Hopewell Township, Mercer County, New Jersey has been sold as reported by **Richard R. Santore of Bielat Santore and Company, Allenhurst, New Jersey**, the broker for the sale.

TJ's Trattoria is a popular eatery that has attracted crowds for the past thirteen years with fine food, good service and inviting atmosphere. The facility itself is divided into three separate components. First, there is a self-contained pizzeria which offers both eat-in and take-out food. Next is a casual, tastefully decorated sit-down Italian Restaurant offering some of the finest cuisine in the area. Finally, there is a very lively and handsome oval bar which seats 36, all with a view of the televisions hung overhead. Each business has its own separate entrance, menu and staff.

Brothers Tony and Joe Vitella have owned and operated the restaurant since its inception thirteen years ago. "We have been in the restaurant business for over thirty years, and the business has been good to us, especially this one. But during the past several years, we have expanded our business interests, particularly into the real estate arena, and we have decided to divest of some of restaurant operations to free up more of our time to pursue such interests. TJ's is obviously the biggest and most successful, so we thought we would start there," says owner Tony Vitella.

Brothers Tony and Joe sold the restaurant to husband and wife Harry and Pamela Clarkson. The Clarksons are owners and operators of another successful restaurant and bar business in Mercer County, that being Fezziwigs Warehouse in Hamilton, New Jersey. The Clarksons intend to operate TJ's exactly as it has been for the past thirteen years. "We are buying a thriving business; we don't want to do anything to interrupt its success. We will work the business and observe existing systems of operation for the first five or six months. If there are changes to be made, we will make them after that time," state the new owners.

TJ's Trattoria is open for lunch and dinner, seven days a week.