



Justine applying blush on client

"We were able to turn our vision into a reality with lots of perseverance and dedication," says Barbara. "It was very demanding at times, but we never forget the struggles we encountered because it makes us appreciate our success all the more. We loved every minute of it."

"The first and most important thing we needed to do was to find the perfect location; one that would be lucrative for our business," says Barbara. In 2003, they chose a storefront in Tradition, a master-planned community in Port St. Lucie, FL that would have several thousand homes by the year 2010.

"We trust each other, turn to each other for advice; we do not take things to heart or become offended. If we have a disagreement, it is over by the end of the day. We understand that work is work; we never allow it to interfere with our family relationship," says Barbara Marzulli, owner.

"Once we signed our lease," Gina continued, "it took another two years to actually open our doors. The most challenging part was dealing with contractors, permits, unforeseen expenses, and all the planning that went into the build-out of a new day spa. In addition, we had to consider our corporate identity, spa menu, website, market research and our overall design plan. We also researched salon software to find the right fit for us."

When The Sanctuary Spa at Tradition finally opened its doors in December 2005, every inch of its 1,200 square feet was functionally and creatively used. Although the square foot-

age of the spa is small, the multi-functional treatment rooms are quite large. The rooms are well thought out with soothing, piped in music, subtle aromatic scents and soft candlelit lighting. Treatment beds are heated for added relaxation. All rooms are perfectly organized in exactly the same way; robes, gowns, headbands and wax pots, right down to the content of the cart. Drawers and cabinets are identically placed in each room. Extra touches such as luxurious sheets, chocolates on the bed and a beautiful, spotless bathroom add to the spa's chic ambiance.

Working as a team

Barbara, Gina and younger sister Justine, like spokes on a wheel, keep The Sanctuary Spa at Tradition running smoothly. "You have to have a very strong family bond to work together every day. At times it can be challenging, but if you treat each other with respect and love, it is actually easier than working with non-family members," says Gina. The admiration they have for each other is reflected in the spa's welcoming atmosphere.

"We trust each other, turn to each other for advice; we do not take things to heart or become offended. If we have a disagreement, it is over by the end of the day. We understand that work is work; we never allow it to interfere with our family relationship. The accomplishments we have created together give us a tremendous feeling of gratitude and fulfillment. We will cherish this time for years to come," says Barbara.

"We try our best to stay focused," adds Justine. "We each work five or six days a week, so one of us is usually here. Challenges occur, but they are few and far between and the rewards are great! We laugh a lot and enjoy spending our time together both during work and after hours. I know I can depend on my family for advice and support."

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