

Ernie Colicci

4.8.1954 - 18.1.2021



In 1982, a young Ernie Colicci travelled to England from his native Italy with a dream to sell ice cream and a passion to grow a business. Soon after arriving in England he met a young lady called Josephine, who would later become his wife, and together they started the company by purchasing one ice cream van. One van became two and before they knew it the Colicci adventure had truly begun.

Very quickly Ernie and Josephine were providing ice cream vans to the biggest events in the country and gaining respect for their service and quality. By the late 1990s the company had a fleet of over 20 vans and, after one event in Hyde Park, they were asked whether they wanted to fill the vacancy for the fixed sites within the park. This meant selling much more than just ice cream but that didn't faze them. They jumped at the chance and have never looked back, the distinctive Colicci

brand can now be seen across the Royal Parks. In 2014 the family firm opened its own dedicated bakery which now supplies handmade cakes and pastries to over 30 of its sites within the parks and across London.

Around 2016 Ernie handed over the running of the operation to the next generation of family members which led to a full rebrand of the business with, no doubt, Ernie keeping a watchful eye on things. One highlight of the new look came when the company's innovative, copper-clad outlet in Westfield Shopping Centre, Stratford, was awarded the Restaurant & Bar Design organisation's 'Outside' award in their UK & International category 2017. The award recognised the outstanding design of the facility which is a hallmark of all the Colicci outlets across London, serving as a fitting tribute to Ernie's legacy of modern catering with an Italian twist.

Ernie always had a listening ear and a happy smile, being well respected by all who knew him. He would always take time to talk to people, his cheery personality bringing a smile to the face of all who met him. Should you have bumped into him at one of his catering outlets you were sure to feel the day improved, and unlucky if you didn't leave without a complimentary ice cream or coffee.

A remarkable man who will be sadly missed by all with whom he came into contact, including those who had the good fortune to be regular customers of his. Ernie leaves behind his wife Nora, children, Rob, Rosie and Olivia, and his lifelong business partner Josephine. We offer our sincere condolences and kind thoughts for such a great loss.

The Royal Parks Guild