



## ***PPN FOOD - Nico and His Journey from Belgium to Thailand***

**Dal nostro corrispondente a Bangkok - 01 ago 2024 (Prima Notizia 24) Belgian-born Nico Calogero Pasqualetto is a young and enterprising professional engaged in the hospitality, tourism, and catering industry. He has been living and working in**

**Thailand for ten years and is now the manager of a prestigious and popular restaurant café in Bangkok.**

Gigi Eatery Ekkamai is the latest addition to a group of renowned eateries in Bangkok. This establishment focuses on providing high-quality service and food in a friendly and intimate setting. The vibrant and cheerful design aims to make all customers, both Thai and foreign, feel at ease. The blend of Western and local styles adds to the unique charm of the place. Nico's Role and Background Nico plays a vital role in managing Gigi Eatery Ekkamai and Gigi Café Asoke. Despite his Italian ancestry, Nico was born in Belgium. He moved to Thailand at a young age to embark on a new adventure in Bangkok, a city known for its vibrant energy. His professional journey in Thailand began early, and he continues to thrive in the "Land of Smiles." When did you arrive in Thailand from Belgium? I moved to Thailand around the age of 24 or 25 after training in the hospitality industry in Belgium. Following my father's travels helped me develop an open-minded approach to new experiences. Now, I've been here for ten years, still working in the same field. Why did you choose Thailand? I wanted to gain professional and personal experiences abroad, outside Belgium. When you're young, you feel there are many opportunities, and you want to seize them to avoid regrets later in life. My journey started in Spain, then led me to Bangkok, where I worked at Le Café Des Stagiaires. After gaining experience there, I joined the Fat Chili - Gigi Group, where I continue to work today. What changes have you seen in Thailand over the past decade? It's challenging to describe the rapid pace of change and growth in Thailand. The last decade has seen significant acceleration, with Thailand becoming a key economic hub in a globalized world. Southeast Asia is now the sixth largest economic market globally, and Thailand is a leading nation in this development. Has there been a specific historical point that marked this change? The 'before' and 'after' COVID-19 periods marked a significant transition. The pandemic exacerbated economic disparities and affected the purchasing power of families. The restaurant industry and other businesses are still recovering, with many closing permanently. What cultural differences have you noticed between the Western mindset and that of the Thais? Open-mindedness and adaptability are crucial. In my management role, understanding and respecting each other's roles is essential. Effective communication and cooperation help us achieve common goals despite cultural differences.

*di Francesco Tortora Giovedì 01 Agosto 2024*

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