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Michael Angelo Hair Studio's masterpiece creations



It's not often that you hear a master hair stylist say two of his best tools are his ears, but Michael Angelo Rizzi of Michael Angelo Hair Studio in Tampa says his listening skills set him apart.

"I make it a point to really listen to my clients, not only what they want in their hairstyle but about their lifestyle, to give them amazing results that really suit them," explains Rizzi, a Philadelphia native who moved to Tampa nearly 10 years ago. "I make sure they are really heard."

After a detailed consultation, Rizzi's artistic side goes to work. His skills as Redken master stylist and certified hair colorist, plus an array of accolades in the industry, give Rizzi the expertise to give his clients wearable works of art — and after 15 years in the business, he remains passionate about his work.

"I'm one of those lucky people that is excited to do what I love everyday," Rizzi says.

The studio, which Rizzi co-owns with partner Anthony Bellapigna, recently celebrated its eight-year anniversary, and the duo are talking about additional locations in the future. Meanwhile, they're launching an all-natural botanical hair care line — available early this summer — to complement the products they already carry.

What Rizzi promises won't change is the foundation of the studio: unmatched personal customer service. In a relaxing, calm environment, clients enjoy a glass of wine and a slice of Rizzi's homemade Death by Chocolate ricotta cheesecake. The secluded color-lab room, adorned with two sparkling fish tanks, features the sound of soothing water, making this a place of pampering.

"I have clients who travel from all over," says Rizzi, adding that the most-miles-traveled award goes to a client from Abu Dhabi. "It's nice to know that people really love what we offer here. We're holding steady to what we do best, which is customer service." And that's music to clients' ears. — Melinda Tam

Michael Angelo Hair Studio, 3313 South West Shore Boulevard, Tampa, michaelangelohair studio.com, 813-832-6650.

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