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## South Florida Food 50: Anita and Klime Kovaceski of Crust



Klime and Anita Kovaceski of Crust, an Italian restaurant by the Miami River.

BY EVAN S. BENN

**Anita and Klime Kovaceski**, owners-operators of Crust.

**Why they're Food 50:** They have evolved their mom-and-pop Miami River pizzeria into a neighborhood-hangout Italian restaurant.

Veteran fine-dining chef Klime Kovaceski (Crystal Café, Trio on the Bay) returned to Miami's food scene in a triumphant way in 2015. He and his Australian wife, Anita, opened Crust, their first restaurant together, in the reawakening Miami River district. He runs the kitchen while she keeps the front-of-house operation pleasant and homey.

They experimented with different menu formats, focusing primarily on pizza and take-out business at first before finding Crust's niche as a neighborhood destination with pastas, parmesan melts and other Italian classics. "I'm pretty happy that Crust is becoming a real restaurant that happens to serve pizza," chef Kovaceski says. "Somehow we managed to find the right balance between a pizzeria and a full-service restaurant, which is not easy."

**Where to find them:** Crust, 668 NW Fifth St., Miami; 305-371-7065.

**Web:** [www.crust-usa.com](http://www.crust-usa.com) **Instagram:** [@crust\\_us](https://www.instagram.com/crust_us)