



## CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

**CUSTOMER**

Villa Pizza

**INDUSTRY**

Restaurant

**LOCATION**

Morristown, New Jersey

**Number of Locations**

200+

**Number of Employees**

1,600 corporate and field

**SYSTEM**

Sage Abra HRMS

**Sage Software Products in Operation**

- Abra HR
- Abra Payroll
- Abra Alerts

## Villa Pizza Finds Key HR and Payroll Ingredients in Sage Abra

Founded in 1964, the first Villa Pizza restaurant was located in a tiny 13' x 34' store in New York City—right next door to the Ed Sullivan Theatre. After the Beatles' historic appearance on the popular Ed Sullivan show that year, the restaurant's unique location provided it with an increasing number of potential customers, including Sullivan, his staff, and a host of celebrities.

The restaurant's success can be attributed to founder Michele Scotto's strict loyalty to old-world recipes and high quality standards. Today, Villa Pizza is the largest privately owned pizza and Italian specialty chain, with more than 200 restaurants located throughout the U.S. and eight countries.

In order to automate its increasingly complex payroll processes, the company purchased a DOS-based solution in the late 1980s. In 2002, the fast-growing organization sought a more robust payroll solution—one that offered an integrated HRMS (human resource management system) and e-capabilities. After evaluating more than six software packages,

Villa Pizza purchased Sage Abra HRMS from Dresser & Associates, a Sage Software Business Partner.

"Features and budget were major factors in our decision. Of all the packages we reviewed, Sage Abra was the only one that offered a huge amount of functionality at a very reasonable cost," said Robert Ezykovich, CPA, senior vice president and controller at Villa Pizza.

### Recipe for the Perfect Payroll Solution

Just months after completing its Sage Abra implementation, Villa Pizza achieved a sense of security with the software—especially the Abra Payroll module. Said Ezykovich, "Abra Payroll has been a huge success for us—we're completely comfortable with it. The system is accurate and fast. For example, we can update all of our state tax rates electronically, in a matter of seconds."

He continued, "Our previous system was not addressing some of the more complicated local taxes that we have to deal with, so we had to invest a lot of staff time in tax

**CHALLENGE**

Find a full-featured, affordable human resource management system that can support the needs of a fast-growing, dispersed company.

**SOLUTION**

Sage Abra HRMS, the market leader in HR, payroll, benefits, and compliance solutions, targeting the needs of small to mid-sized companies.

**RESULTS**

Sage Abra offers greater speed and confidence in Villa Pizza's payroll processes and an integrated HR/payroll system. With Abra Alerts and other e-capabilities, Villa Pizza envisions to all around improvements.

*"Our previous system was not addressing some of the more complicated local taxes that we have to deal with, so we had to invest a lot of staff time in tax law research. With Abra Payroll, we've eliminated that need. I'm now certain not only that we don't miss any tax codes, but also that each one is properly applied"*

—Robert Ezykovich, CPA  
Senior VP and Controller  
Villa Pizza

## ABOUT SAGE SOFTWARE

Sage Software has been responding to the needs, challenges, and dreams of small and mid-sized businesses for over 25 years. With a complete range of business management solutions and services, Sage Software helps companies improve customer relationships, reduce costs, and automate and integrate a variety of operational activities. Its solutions support the specialty needs of a broad scope of industry segments, including manufacturing, distribution, construction, real estate, nonprofit, and professional services.



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Ezykovich has also seen his department's productivity increase, thanks to Sage Abra. Villa Pizza pays approximately 1,600 corporate and field employees every two weeks. It used to take the payroll department nearly four days to complete and print paychecks. Now it takes less than three days.

"We've enjoyed greater speed and confidence in our payroll processes with Sage Abra. Reports that used to take more than 30 minutes to produce, print, and fax, can now be done and sent electronically in 10 minutes, helping us better support our field managers," said Ezykovich. "Because of this time savings, the payroll staff is able to spend more time on important tax preparation activities."

### HR Integration—a Key Ingredient

Villa Pizza is committed to maintaining a high morale and pride in its employees. In order to support that effort, it was important that the company have an integrated HR/payroll solution.

"With Sage Abra, our HR department finally has direct access to the information it needs to effectively manage employee compensation and benefits. The seamless integration between Abra HR and Abra Payroll saves us a lot of time and aggravation," noted Ezykovich.

Building on its early success with the Sage Abra HR and payroll modules, Villa Pizza is in the process of adding Abra Alerts so it can proactively distribute information to employees through e-mail. Abra Alerts will automatically monitor the company's HR and payroll database, and proactively distribute information to managers and employees using its existing e-mail system.

"A big selling point for us was the [Abra Alerts module's] ability to notify employees of medical coverage status, and 401(k) and PTO eligibility," added Ezykovich. Using Abra Alerts, the HR department will also be able to keep managers up to date with important dates for their direct reports, like birthdays, work anniversaries, and vacation plans. With stores located across the U.S., the solution will help us improve the efficiency of our employee communications, and will certainly reduce costs over time."

### Satisfied Customer Builds for the Future

Ezykovich is impressed with the service and support provided by both Sage Software and its business partner. "Sage Software and Dresser & Associates have been very good to us. They're always there when we need them—to answer implementation questions and provide customer support," said Ezykovich.

With Sage Abra in place, Ezykovich is confident Villa Pizza can meet the changing needs of an expanding, dispersed organization. "For the first time in our history, we have the ability to offer direct deposit. It's nice to know that Villa Pizza can grow and better serve employees using robust functionality and e-capabilities of Sage Abra."