Chef’s Log 11 October 2008
Bagelnini? Banino? Banini!

What is the correct term for the singular of a bagel grilled on a panini grill? Bagelnini is too long a word. Banino is grammatically correct, being the singular, but sounds more like a cheerful child than a lunch treat. Let’s go with Banini.

So here is our assembled Banini, ready for grilling. Did you ever consider what happens when you put cheese on a bagel and then place it on a hot grill? Melted cheese would end up everywhere. A paper-thin slice of prosciutto covers each half of the sesame bagel, to prevent cheese leakage. Two slices of heirloom tomato on the top, some Mozzarella on the bottom, a few shakes of hot crushed red pepper, and we’re ready to grill.

It looked good. Not exactly like a bagel, surely not much like a panini, but good.
And, as always, I finish with a shot of the rubble at the end of the meal, this time not nearly so photographical or photogenic.