

Features

Review

Carrabbas offers affordability and authentic taste

Jason Wicks
Staff Writer

When a college student decides on a place to eat, two factors come into consideration: affordability and good food. Well, Carrabbas Italian Grill satisfies both requirements.

Carrabbas, owned by the Outback Steakhouse restaurant chain, decided to build their restaurant near the Asheville Outback.

"We like to build Carrabbas where the most successful Outback Steakhouses are... and the Outback here in Asheville is probably the busiest in the North Carolina region," said Robert Hensley, front house manager at Carrabbas.

Carrabbas, situated between the Courtyard Marriott and the Hampton Inn, has an interesting seclusion from busy Tunnel Road.

Carrabbas has its own unique dining flavor with an open, exhibition kitchen, bar, and wood-burning pizza oven.

According to Hensley, Carrabbas has some of the best pizza in town. "We pride ourselves on freshness. We make everything here from whipped cream to chocolate pudding daily," says Hensley.

It's easy to see that Carrabbas is owned by Outback for their commitment to friendly

and helpful staff. Different from other restaurants, Carrabbas prides itself in taking care of its customers, and they do take care of them.

Waiters and waitresses from other tables come and check on the customer to see if all is satisfactory, filling water glasses and such as needed.

The service isn't the only thing that makes Carrabbas special. They also have some of the best Italian food in Asheville. Large portions and flavorful food make dining quite enjoyable. In fact, most people will not be able to finish their meal and will be forced to take the rest of it with them.

Prices start at \$6.45 for a pizza and move up to \$14.95.

While waiting for dinner, one can watch food being prepared by chefs in the open kitchen. The server gives each table a

basket of fresh bread and then sprinkles herbs and olive oil onto a small plate for those who like to dip their bread.

Carrabbas, although it may sound like the type of restaurant which demands fancy dress, actually favors the casual. But don't expect casual service.

Carrabbas stresses through their food, service, and price that customers are the most important aspect of their business. They revive the motto that many restaurants have lost: customers come first.

Watch out, Olive Garden, you now have some healthy competition.



Photo by Del Delorm

The new restaurant Carrabbas is situated between the Courtyard Marriott and Hampton Inn on Tunnel Road.

Acoustic band lacks originality, imitates well

Jay Malinoski
Staff Writer

Once in a great while there will be a band whose style and originality mark them as one of the great musical troupes of our time. This isn't it.

Vertical Horizon, a mid-Atlantic acoustic band, tries so hard to be so many different musicians on their latest release, "Running On Ice," that it's almost theatrical. From start to finish, guitarists/singers Keith Kane and Matthew Scannell spoon-feed us a varied assortment of the SAME THING.

Here is the playlist from the album. I will first name the song, and then I will name who exactly should have done the song in the first place.

1) "Heart In Hand" (this song is to the Indigo Girls what the Bionic Woman was to Lee Majors), 2) "Wash Away" (Indigo Girls all the way baaaaby), 3) "Fragments" (James Taylor makes a comeback!), 4) "Famous" (Alas, the Indigo Girls), 5) "The Man Who Would

Be Santa" (The role of Santa in this case will be played by James Taylor).

6) "Angel Without Wings" (You think Simon & Garfunkel should play Central Park again?), 7) "Answer Me" (three words, IN DI GO) and so on.

That's not the entire playlist, but I think you get the point. I'm not against low-key mellow acoustic tunes, but if we've already got James Taylor, Simon & Garfunkel, and the Indigo Girls, why do we need Vertical Horizon?

I know, we could call them James Indigo & Garfunkel and just bypass the first three. Think of how much you'd save on CD's.

Led Zeppelin, Aerosmith, Jimi Hendrix, even The Misfits share a commonality in that they cannot be so easily lumped in with other bands even remotely sounding like themselves.

In fact, I would venture to say that they (in their own day) were the standards by which other, lesser bands were gauged. That in itself marks them as great musicians, whereas Vertical Horizon could best be described as good imitators.



Vertical Horizon

Photo courtesy of Vision International

Remember the 80s?

Compiled from the Internet

Portions of the following list were emailed to our photo editor. You were a true child of the 80s if:

- ◆ "Celebration" by Kool & the Gang was one of the hot new songs when you first heard it at a school dance.
- ◆ The first time you ever kissed someone at a dance fell during "Crazy for You" by Madonna.
- ◆ You ever owned one of those embarrassing crimping irons.
- ◆ The phrase "Where's the beef?" still doubles you over with laughter.
- ◆ You honestly remember when film critics raved that no movie could ever possibly get better special effects than those in the movie "TRON."
- ◆ Your hair, at some point during the 80s, became something which can only be described by the phrase "I was experimenting."
- ◆ When someone mentions two consecutive days of the week, the "Happy Days" theme song is stuck in your head for hours on end.
- ◆ You had ringside seats for Luke and Laura's wedding.
- ◆ You know, by heart, the words to any "Weird" Al Yankovic song.
- ◆ Songs by Debbie Gibson still haunt you to this day.
- ◆ Three words: "Atari," "IntelliVision," and "Coleco." Sound familiar?
- ◆ You ever owned a pair of "Pop-Wheels," that handy little combination of shoe and roller skate that lasted about a year on the open market.
- ◆ A predominant color in your childhood photos is "plaid."
- ◆ You took family trips BEFORE the invention of the mini-van. You rode in the back of the station wagon and you faced the cars behind you.
- ◆ You were shocked and horrified at the Challenger explosion (which you were probably watching in school at the time), and yet when someone mentions the name "JFK," the first thing you think of is Oliver Stone.
- ◆ While in high school, you and all your friends discussed elaborate plans to get together again at the end of the century and play "1999" by Prince (or the artist formerly known as) over and over again.
- ◆ You remember the days when "safe sex" meant "my parents are gone for the weekend."
- ◆ Schoolhouse Rock played a HUGE part in how you actually learned the English language.
- ◆ You ever dressed to emulate a person you saw in either a Duran Duran, Madonna, or Cyndi Lauper video.
- ◆ At one point during your teenage years, you walked with a noticeable tilt to one side due to the number of plastic rings on that arm.
- ◆ You knew all the words to Billy Joel's "We Didn't Start the Fire," but it really didn't hold any meaning for you until the third verse.

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