

Restaurant Review Cont...

A Review of the Captain's Table By: Sam Blevins

I have visited the Captain's Table on several occasions, and I have left satisfied. However, things took a turn for the worse this time.

I had been invited to a dinner in which my sister was going to take our parents out to eat. We had a party of ten all together that evening and to begin with, the service was good considering the amount of business. As the night wore on, the waitress began to become slack in her efforts. She was late bringing the salad bowls to our table, and she failed to bring a member of our party a bowl. He later received it after everyone else had gotten their food. Two of us ordered the Surf and Turf, which includes steak and shrimp. When the food arrived, the cooks and waitress forget to put the shrimp with the orders. It took her about five minutes to return with those. Meanwhile, the gentlemen that had received his salad bowl so late had never received his food. Finally, he had to request it in a to-go box. His food was forty-five minutes late.

As time progressed, things got even worse. The waitress had charged us extra for the shrimp and the to-go order. Both of these things were orders placed at the beginning. She was charging us for her mistakes. We did not receive any courtesy on refill or food at all. As a result, we approached the management. The member of management had difficulty seeing our point-of-view. The manager was reluctant to take off the extra charges and blamed the mistakes on us. However, the manager finally resolved the issue, but did not take away anything extra or offer something to make up for the misunderstanding.

The truth of the matter was that the waitress knew she would get the tip because of the large group. She attempted to make up for her mistakes at our expense. The waitress was horrible in that respect. In turn, I suggest that if you go to the Captain's Table never go in a large group. The wait staff will not be kind nor will the management help if the staff fails in their duties. After all the disadvantages of the meal, I found one advantage to the experience: the food.

I would again like to say the food was excellent, but please don't go in large groups due to adding of tips to the bill. In most cases, the gratuity is justified, but when the manager will not require the staff to uphold their responsibilities, it is bad. You can make up your mind about the Captain's Table and pick your place to eat wisely.

Macaroni Grill Review

Vicki Scott

If you were like my family and I, we thought this restaurant was all about macaroni and cheese when we first drove by it and saw the name. We had to go inside to see just what Macaroni Grill was all about. We found out as everyone else does upon entering the establishment, that it's an Italian restaurant. It's an authentic Italian restaurant, not your generic spaghetti and Italian bread restaurant. For starters, the bread served at the beginning of your meal, shortly after you've been seated, is called focaccia. It is served with their "butter," olive oil; it's a special thick brand. You pull off hunks of this bread and dip it into the ground pepper laced oil. Oh man, it is good! You could practically make a meal on that and one of their Caesar salads. They also have house salads.

There are plenty of mouthwatering appetizers to choose from. One of our favorites is thick slices of tomato with a hunk of Mozzarella on each and big basil leaves strewn around all in balsamic vinegar. Yummy! Portobello mushrooms cooked in balsamic vinegar is another favorite appetizer. The main courses either have pasta in them or come with it on the side. Hence, the name Macaroni Grill. There is penne, farfalle (bow tie), angel hair, and macaroni pasta to name a few. There is macaroni and cheese on the kid's menu, by the way. You can get ravioli, lasagna, and spaghetti as well as specialty dishes. Of course, these already mentioned are done up specially (they don't look like they came out of a can). They make their pasta on the premises. There are all kinds of sauces. Their dishes come in fattening white cream or lighter red sauces. They have certain dishes and pizzas that are baked in their brick ovens. The pizzas are like the ones served at Bertucci's (but that's another review for another time).

The desserts and coffees are outstanding. Save room or get a to-go-box (the dinner portions are large and served on huge platters and in big bowls). Back to the desserts. There are different cheesecakes, tara mi su, a cream canolli, fresh berries with cream, and a chocolate cake, to name most of the desserts. For your viewing pleasure, they will bring around a tray with all the desserts on it. By now you'll be ordering one of everything. You can't help yourself.

If you're lucky enough to be celebrating something while you are there, you will get sung to in Italian opera. These people can really belt out the songs. They are usually the hosts and hostesses. Last time we were there, the birthday person had to wave a red cloth napkin above his/her head. I could do without that, but the music is beautiful. The waiters and waitresses are nice, helpful, and prompt. They are generous with the pepper grinder and the real grated cheese. They encourage writing on the tables, too. Right away they introduce themselves by writing their names upside down so you can read it. The

