

Last Resort worth try

I was nervous as I entered The Last Resort. My friend and I had trekked from campus, bookbags in hand, to eat lunch at the restaurant, and we were faced with an atmosphere that suggested anything but our tennis-shoes-and-shorts style of student dress.

At the top of the stairs lay a black-and-white checkered floor that leads into a nicely furnished bar and lounge and a spacious dining room. The walls are maroon and peach, and upholstered maroon armchairs surround each table.

But the atmosphere, in contrast to our elegant surroundings, was very laid-back, and we relaxed as the music changed from Tommy Dorsey to a Jimmy Buffet album.

The restaurant, which opened in February 1984, calls itself "Chapel Hill's best kept secret." Students who venture off busy Franklin Street onto Rosemary will discover this nice change from fast food in its unlikely location above Jordan le Charolais and Troll's.

The restaurant has a lunch menu available from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and a dinner menu after 6 p.m. The prices for meals rise drastically from lunch to dinner. Lunch prices are more than a student would usually pay, but the amount of food served and the good service make it worthwhile.

Prices for luncheon items range from \$3 to \$6. A junior hamburger is \$2.95, a chicken breast filet is \$3.35, a roast beef and cheddar is \$4.25, and the most expensive sandwich, the shrimp and crabmeat pocket, is \$5.25.

The luncheon entrees cost between \$5 and \$6. They feature beef, chicken, seafood and fish. The restaurant only serves Angus beef, which is a clas-

Cortney Sanders Restaurants

sification above prime and choice. Customers can also choose from "Cajun Corner," dishes that are spicy, but not too hot.

Our lunch began with a basket of hot, homemade rolls, included with the meal. For an entree, I chose the beef and seafood kebabs and a garden salad that was topped with a choice of homemade dressings. The kebabs were served over wild rice, an excellent accompaniment seasoned perfectly. The kebabs were good, but included only one shrimp and one scallop, along with beef and vegetables.

My friend chose the Cajun grilled scallops, which were served over spinach fettucine and came with broccoli almondine. The serving of scallops was generous, and the broccoli was tender but not overcooked.

We completed our lunch with homemade coconut cream pie that could compete with Mom's.

The food was served at a nice pace, allowing us to enjoy the peaceful atmosphere.

The atmosphere is more formal at night, and the prices reflect this.

Tablecloths replace place mats, and candles are added to each table. More classical music and jazz are played.

The dinner menu, which is also dominated by seafood and beef, includes veal and lambchops. The lowest-priced dinner entrees are petite prime rib au jus for \$11.75 and fried oysters or ribeye for \$11.95. The medium-priced dinners are scallops, veal and crabmeat for about \$15. Filet mignon ranges from \$16 to \$20, and an entree named after the restaurant costs \$20. This consists of either prime rib or filet mignon with a choice of shrimp, scallops, lobster or crabmeat. The most expensive dinner is two five-ounce lobsters at \$24.95.

All of the entrees are served with spinach or house salad, rolls and a vegetable.

The bar has a separate food menu that is available beginning at 4:30 p.m. It includes appetizers such as fried banana peppers and sandwiches like the club or French dip. Prices are in the same range as lunch items.

The Sunday brunch has yet another menu. Customers can choose from seafood omelettes, eggs or steak Benedict, or plain and simple eggs, bacon and grits. Prices range from \$3 to \$6.

Whichever menu you are reading, the choice will be difficult to make. The Last Resort is a secret that should be told.

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