

# Pay for atmosphere not food at local restaurant

**MARY ROBBINS**  
Staff Writer

Every time I drive down Oberlin Road, a building with funky red letters spelling out "EVOO" demands my attention. It looks fun and fresh, but what the heck is it?

It is the Mediterranean restaurant whose name is an acronym for extra virgin olive oil. From the street, EVOO struck me as a cute restaurant that I really wanted to try out. I followed my gut (or appetite), and ended up at the corner of Fairview and Oberlin to dine at the sassy, classy EVOO.

When I first entered the

restaurant, it was everything that it seemed to be from the outside. Twentysomethings were gathered around the bar drinking wine, while an older crowd was sprinkled around the remainder of the dining room. Black and white retail photography hung on the walls. The whole atmosphere was very "inside the beltline." My party was most likely the youngest group of people there. Although I felt a tad out of place, things were going well.

While ordering, I was unable to accurately pronounce the dish, Margharita Pizza. If you are wonder-

ing, it is pronounced margarita (like the drink). As everybody at my table was amused by my "Jessica Simpson moment," the waitress glared at me as if my innocent mistake was enough to make her vomit.

Upon the prompt arrival of the food, the noodles from the Penne pasta with goat cheese, grilled chicken, spinach and asiago tomato cream were undercooked and cold. It tasted like rubber. A variety of gourmet pizzas were tasty; however, the dough was bland and practically unbearable without the toppings. The winner of the table was the simple

Chopped steak with sautéed onions which came with tasty mashed potatoes and fresh green beans.

Prices were very reasonable ranging from \$5.00 salads to a \$19.95 roasted rack of lamb. The food was mediocre. Even the dessert specials (Dutch Apple Pie and German Chocolate Cake) were not top notch. Our waitress had an arrogant attitude and followed every comment we made with a dirty look.

EVOO has a saying: "Destined to become your favorite restaurant after just one visit!" I will never go back. Even worse than the food is the parking, the no

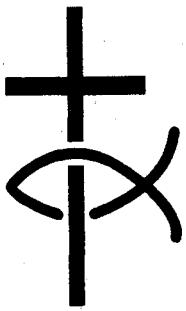
parking zones were even full.

The only reason I can devise for people choosing to dine at EVOO is for the name, location, and hip atmosphere. Unless you are the type of person who craves being seen at the stylish spots, I would advise you not to dine at EVOO.

Don't believe us? Try EVOO yourself, 2519 Fairview Rd Raleigh, NC 27608. You can even call ahead at (919) 782-3866.

Let us know what you think! Send your comments to [Herald@meredith.edu](mailto:Herald@meredith.edu).

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Please welcome prospective students and their families to our campus this Friday, January 30th for "Open Day" for High School Seniors 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Posted by: Office of Admissions 760-8581