

Napoli: Casual atmosphere, unbelievable Italian food

Review by Lindsay McNamara

If your taste buds are yearning for food of the Italian variety, look no further than a pleasant stride down 13th Avenue. Napoli Restaurant and Bakery offers a delectable traditional southern cuisine of the finest Italian foods, along with an overwhelming display of pastries and fresh espresso. They offer pasta, calzone, pizza, salads and wine and beer. They take reservations for five or more people and they even have take-out! Nestled around the corner from Subway and across the street from Precision Cuts and Tanning, Napoli offers a comfortable yet sophisticated atmosphere to escape from the hustle and bustle of the day. Napoli is indeed close to the university and directly serves the campus population. This may be why their prices are so reasonable with lunch specials around \$6 and main dishes under \$10.

My date and I ordered a lunch special of Mediterranean lasagna accompanied by a salad and a standard manicotti dish. Both our meals came with the famous foccacia bread, which was cooked perfectly and spiced just right with plenty of parmesan and rosemary. After ordering our specialty drinks of a Vanilla Crème soda and a Strawberry Italian soda, we then sat back and surveyed the scene. We soon realized that Napoli is a very popular lunch spot. The servers were bustling back and forth with the greatest of ease on the traditional black and white checkered floor. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and the Italian village pictures decorating the



walls. Our meals came within a reasonable amount of time and we began the feast. Laura thoroughly enjoyed her cheesy manicotti and I was in lasagna heaven. It was hands-down the best lasagna I'd ever had. (Sorry, mom.) Maybe it was the fact that kalamata olives, spinach and artichoke hearts happen to be some of my favorite ingredients. Or it could have been the way all of those ingredients were cooked with the cheese and sauce in a medley of lasagna greatness. I don't know why it was so good but I enjoyed it-and that's an understatement. Well, you can't walk by the dessert case without getting one, so even though we stuffed ourselves, we managed to find some room for a raspberry/chocolate cake with cream cheese frosting and espresso/chocolate cheese-cake. I wish we could have sampled all the desserts but judging from the ones we tried I'm sure the other selections are just as yummy.

If you're looking for a casual atmosphere with reasonably priced Italian food made from the finest ingredients, then stop into Napoli Restaurant and Bakery.



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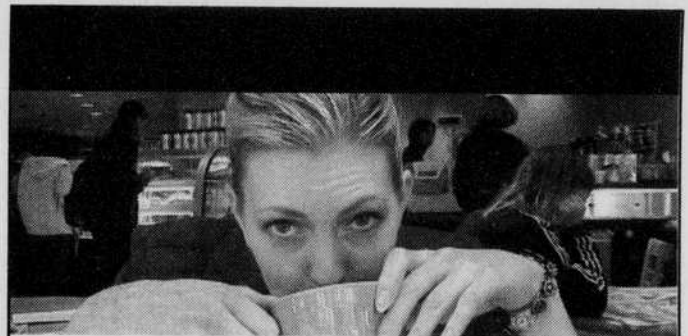
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