

Park St. Café: The Best Lunch Spot You've Never Heard About

Park St. Café
776 W. Park St. - 485-2089
Fare: Mediterranean
Entrees under \$7

Reviewed by Matthew Betz & Emily Philbin

Park St. Café is a European style café serving up a selective menu of homemade Mediterranean dishes, hand-selected by the owner and providing diners a sample of Mediterranean cuisine. The décor follows suit—tall ceilings and brick walls decorated with Greek art and giving the café a casual but classy feel. Large windows provide atrium-like lighting and enjoyable views of the downtown fountains.

The café is open 9am-3pm for breakfast and lunch. Lunch options consist of fresh Greek, chef, spinach and other salads ranging in price from \$5.95-\$7.95, as well as an ample selection of homemade sandwiches made with a variety of ingredients. The highlight of lunch is the specials—five standard daily specials and one special that varies each day, all priced at \$6.95 and accompanied by your choice of soup or salad.

As we entered the café, a friendly man with an indeterminate accent greeted us. Once seated, we were encouraged to try one of the popular lunch specials, including a vegetarian stir-fry and meatless lasagna. After careful consideration we decided on the pineapple chicken and side salad and the meat lasagna and chicken rice soup. Before we even had time to start a conversation, lunch was served.

The pineapple chicken was served on top of sweet rice with sliced red peppers, chunks of pineapple and large pieces of chicken in a sweet and sour pineapple sauce. Accompanying the entrée was a crisp salad with fresh tomatoes, zesty Italian dressing and served with classic Mediterranean flat bread. The portions were considerable – perfect for a hearty lunch and thoroughly satisfying.

The meat lasagna had thinner egg noodles than I'd ever

had before but they were no less delicious. The sauce was a thick and hearty, well-seasoned base for the large chunks of tender beef, spinach and zucchini all topped with fresh parmesan. The portion was more than I could handle and the combination of homemade quality and size made it a steal at \$6.95. The chicken rice soup made an excellent companion to the lasagna. Creamy and well seasoned with large chunks of chicken, it was perfect for dipping the soft, chewy bread that accompanied it.

The overall experience was excellent. Park St. is a great little spot to catch a lunch or breakfast while downtown. Everything tasted truly homemade and this is a restaurant we strongly recommend. If you'd like to break out from the typical lunch spots in Eugene, head down to Park St. Café. Ask for the lunch special and come away with a full stomach, an unhurt wallet and the appreciation of your lunch companions.



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