

## City View Deli:

Classic Combination

At 8th Avenue and Park downtown, you'll find City View Deli, a hip little joint filled with big glass windows, lots of light, sophisticated colors and décor, and, at present, a gallery of city life paintings by Jim Derby that reflect the cool urban feel of the deli itself. It's a small space, but the height of the ceilings and predominance of windows give it the character of a much bigger area.

At City View, I order a Turkey, Bacon, Avocado, Lettuce and Swiss Cheese panini (\$5.95), which comes with a side of Tim's Cascade Style potato chips and a pickle wedge. Of all the selections of panini I try, the one at City View looks the most like what I expect a panini to look like — the sandwich is built on a narrow roll, which is compressed and marked with diagonal strips of grill lines. The inside is dense and melted, and the flavors work well together — turkey, bacon and avocado make a classic combination, and the Swiss cheese pulls it all together.

The only thing about this sandwich is that on taking it as a to go order, the ride from the deli to the office leaves the dense bread overly chewy to the tooth. I'm guessing that eating it right off the grill in the restaurant makes for a better sandwich crust.

If you're looking for a place downtown to linger over a lunch hour of good food and great atmosphere, City View Deli will suit you just right.

45 E. 8th Ave. 242-3536. 8 am-3 pm M-F, 8 am-5 pm Sa. Wheelchair accessible.

## Perugino:

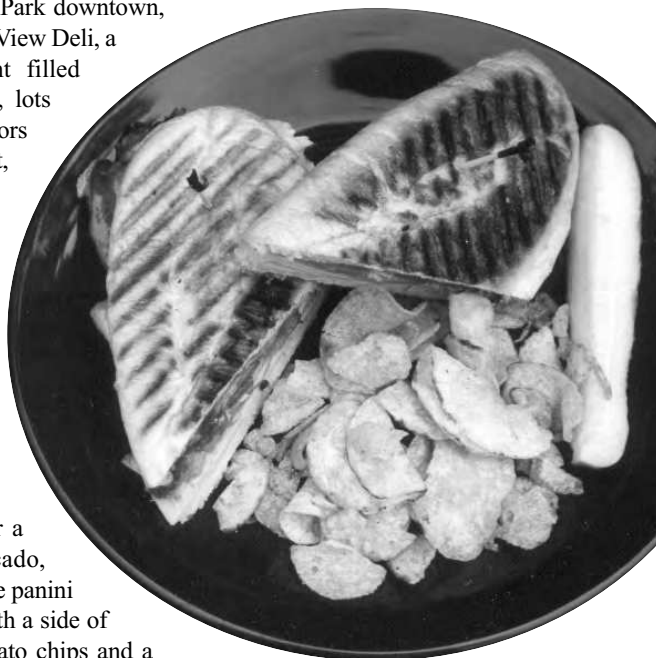
Panini Perfection

Perugino is another downtown spot, on Willamette between 7th and 8th avenues. Perugino combines kind of an industrial brick and concrete style with beautiful lighting to create something that feels both like a large, sophisticated

dining room and a casual, secret bistro. There's always a stunning gallery of artwork (right now, some really outstanding photography by Adrienne Adam), as well as displays of dramatic Italian pottery and ceramics.

At Perugino, I order the Fromaggio Semplice panino (\$4.25). As the name suggests, this is a simple item: a crusty roll split and filled with slices of provolone and smoked gouda cheese, a layer of basil leaves, and some pesto I add for an extra fifty cents on the suggestion of the wait person. All these ingredients come together in perfect balance: chewy but tender bread with a crisp crustiness and a filling that melts and melds into simple, but sublime, harmony. Part of the secret at Perugino seems to be that the panini rolls are fairly flat, and they're sliced so that one side is markedly flatter than the other. The sandwich is also grilled long enough to leave golden brown grill marks, to melt the cheese with the pesto and to soften up the basil leaves just a little. Perugino definitely hits the mark in terms of my expectations for what a panino will look and taste like.

767 Willamette St. 687-9102. 6:30 am-10 pm M-W, 6:30 am-midnight Th-F, 8 am-midnight Sa, 10 am-10 pm Su. Wheelchair accessible. **CW**



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