



FOOD & DINING

DINING REVIEW of 1285 Restobar *Special Freelance Review*

Popularity of a business is often a good indicator of the quality so when the outdoor tables at 1285 Restobar are occupied on a cool and drizzly afternoon, we decided that it must be a good place to eat. We went inside where diners were seated at almost all the tables and the bar and the outdoor seating on the enclosed patio was almost full as well. Bright yellow walls, the wood bar area and the patio enhanced by lots of greenery and hanging lights welcomed and cheered us. The smell of pizza wafted through the air and all around was lively conversation. Lots of locals were in the house talking with each other between tables and at the bar, enjoying a lovely evening and sharing conversation in a family friendly environment.

Some diners were just leaving so we were seated within minutes and presented with our menus. Our server returned promptly to take a drink order and tell us the specials of the day. I chose the fish special although I was tempted by many of the pasta entrees and pizzas.

Soon, other diners began receiving their meals and the dishes all showed generous portions and enticing aromas filled the air. While we savored a few sips of our pinot gris and enjoyed the activity around us we noticed that people of all ages were visiting and eating a variety of menu items. The

menu is not incredibly large but has enough variety to please most diners with burgers and salads to pasta dishes, seafood, chicken, lamb & beef entrees.

Several appetizers are available as a prelude to dinner or to provide a light meal. The Antipasta Platter is a beautiful presentation of meats, cheeses, olives and crusty bread with pesto sauce and the pound of Steamer Clams are fragrant with white wine, herbs, tomatoes and garlic with crusty bread to soak up the tasty broth.

Everyone around us appeared to be enjoying their meals and conversation was lively. The staff bustled through the dining room serving, clearing tables and seating new diners. The efficient team kept the flow of food and drinks moving in a timely manner and we didn't wait long for our meal to be served.

My fish special was Grilled Mahi Mahi. It was topped with a caper sauce and served with rice pilaf and sauteed vegetables. The fish was perfectly grilled, hot and flaky tender and the caper sauce enhanced the flavors with its tart acidity. The rice was a bit sticky but the flavors of herbs and vegetables overcame that slight problem. Sauteed zucchini and yellow squashes, onions and red peppers were cooked al dente and seasoned nicely with salt & pepper. All of the items on my plate were

at the perfect serving temperature. Others at my table enjoyed Caesar Salad that was crunchy and fresh with a perfect mixture of dressing, parmesan cheese and croutons and topped with tender and moist chicken breast. The third dinner was a tummy filling 1285 Burger with a side salad. Throughout our meal, our server was attentive, providing the right amount of service and delivering our check promptly when we were finished.

The "open kitchen" area allows diners to watch the food preparation activity and enjoy the ambiance of this Bay Street mainstay. Over the years this restaurant has changed and developed from Pizza Express to Paisano's to Vik's Deli and then its current iteration as a small but classy eatery that maintains the pizza and pasta menu, but also includes the seafood that coastal diners expect to find, a pleasing variety of meat dishes and a number of vegetarian and gluten free options. Add to that the bottled beer and microbrews on tap, the Northwest and Italian wine options and the full bar with soft drinks, coffee, tea and desserts and you will find the complete dining experience.

1285 Restobar is located at 1285 Bay Street in Old Town Florence, OR 97439 and is open Monday-Sunday 11:00am to Close

ROCKIN' & ROLLIN' SPECIAL
RHODY WEEKEND
Surfside Restaurant

1/4 LB. BURGER AND FRIES
w/ all the fixin's
\$6.00
Cherry Coke and Root Beer Floats Available

CALL: 541-997-8263 88416 First Ave.

MAPLE STREET GRILLE

WE NOW HAVE CRAFT BEER ON TAP

WINE WEDNESDAY Pan Seared Lemon Pepper Thyme Salmon
served with broccoli & lemon garlic rice
THURSDAY Grilled Sirloin
topped with bacon and mushrooms served with roasted carrots & Mashers
RHODY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY SPECIALS
Mahi Mahi or Grilled Sirloin
served with 4 scallops, coconut rice & salad

Open for Lunch & Dinner • Lunch Specials Daily
Reservations Suggested.
Hours: Tues-Sat: 11:30am-9pm
165 MAPLE ST. • 541-997-9811 • WWW.MAPLESTREETGRILLE.COM

1285 Restobar
Pizza • Pasta • Seafood

Prime Rib Wednesday
Includes yukon mashed potatoes and salad. **Only \$16**

1285 Bay Street in Old Town Florence, OR 97439
(541) 902-8338
Hours: Monday-Sunday 11:00am to Close
Happy Hour: Monday-Friday 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Lovejoy's Restaurant & Tea Room

We will be closed until May 19th.
Enjoy the festivities and see you when we re-open!

195 Nopal Street • 541-902-0502

THE GRILL & LOUNGE AT SANDPINES

Lunch served Wed-Sun 11:30-5:00
HAPPY HOUR 2-5 Wed-Sun
Tasty Appetizers and Great Prices

We will be offering our New dinner menu on FRI and SAT nights from 5-8pm

1201 35th Street at Kingwood, Florence
Highway 101 & 35 St. 541-997-4623

Little Brown Hen CAFE

FLORENCE FAVORITES~ OLD-FASHIONED BROWN RICE PUDDING
Brown rice, eggs, milk, spices, brown sugar & golden raisins. Served with milk or half-&-half & a dollop of whipped cream if you like.

Breakfast and Lunch 7 days a week from 7 am - 2 pm.
435 Highway 101 • 541-902-2449

Spice
Global & Northwest Fusion Cuisine
www.spiceinflorence.com

- Tuesday - Ladies Night \$2 off entrée
- Wednesday - Burger & Brew \$8.50
- Thursday - \$4 Margaritas - \$2.50 Tacos

Get your frequent diner card.
Pay for 7 entrees and get 8th one free (Up to \$15 value)

TUE, WED, THUR: DINNER 3PM TO CLOSE
FRI, SAT, SUN: LUNCH AND DINNER 11:30 TO CLOSE • CLOSED MONDAY
541-997-1646 1269 Bay Street • Old Town Florence

Mo's Restaurant

Every Month Mo's has brought in special "Motivation for Kids" tables which raise money for local charities that are devoted to helping the wellbeing of local children. This month FLORENCE HEAD START is the local charity being honored.

By sitting at these tables you help a specific local charity each and every time. We thank you for that!

Me's Old Town, Florence • Daily 11 am - 8 pm
Serving Bowls of comfort for Over 50 Years

Le Bouchon PROVISIONS
WINE BAR & SALES - DELICATESSEN

Locally Baked Pastries - Breads - Muffins
Sandwiches - Soup - Salads

- Big Fat Meat Loaf Sandwich
- Mac & Cheese • Broccoli & Cheddar Quiche
- Morning Glory Muffins
- Croissants (Ham & Cheese or Chocolate)

Weekend Wine Tasting • Wine of the Month
Reustle Prayer Rock Vineyard
Red - Pinot Noir • White - Gruner Velt Liner

Open Daily 10am - 5pm • Closed Mondays
1277 Bay Street- Old Town Florence - 541-902-1391