

FOOD & DINING

DINING REVIEW Of Surfside Restaurant at Driftwood Shores

Special Freelance Review

It is always a treat to sit and watch the ocean and activity on the beach while dining at Driftwood Shores. Upon arriving and scanning the dining room for empty tables, we saw a few in the main dining area and several below the lounge. When we asked if any of these tables were available we were told that they were not and the only seating was in the lounge. There was one table open in the lounge and a couple seats at the bar, but we wanted to have the ocean view so we waited for the table to be cleared. My dining companion went back to ask if the tables next to the window were reserved and was told that they weren't, but because there were only two servers working, it would take a long time to get served if we were to sit in that area. There were a couple tables occupied already and they seemed to be getting attention, so we were a little perplexed, but decided to stay at our table in the lounge.

We were offered only the lounge menu and had to request a dinner menu, as did the two women at the table next to us. They confirmed that they were only offered a table in the lounge and wondered if they would have been able to order from the dinner menu if they stayed in their room and ordered room service. We perused the

menus and found that the wine menu is varied in both price and choices, so we ordered quickly and discussed our choices for appetizers. I had eaten the deep fried pickles previously and quickly decided to have them again. We also ordered one of the special appetizers of stuffed mushrooms topped with dry jack cheese. We asked for extra spicy sauce for the pickles, both to cool them off and provide a perfect touch of spicy heat.

I had previously eaten the Chicken & Mushroom Fettucine made with Boursin cheese sauce. It was prepared with tomatoes and peas, was delightfully flavored by the cheese and mushrooms and was enough to satisfy and take a little home for the next day's lunch. My dinner companion had the Rogue Creamery Blue Cheese Stuffed Pork Chop. It also had shiitake mushrooms in the stuffing and was served with a fuji apple compote and mashed potatoes. The pork chop was a little dry and the stuffing was not distributed evenly throughout so the blue cheese was only in a couple of bites, which unfortunately was the most enjoyable part of the chop. We were discussing what entrees we would try this time, but realized we were not really hungry enough for that so ordered another round of deep fried pickles. Our bartender/server

brought an extra side of spicy sauce this time!

The neighboring table ordered the tempura battered cod sliders and popcorn shrimp - they both were very happy with their choices so that might be something to try next time or maybe the Butternut Squash Ravioli. The menu includes several pasta options for vegetarians and seafood lovers and there are five steak choices as well as pork, meatloaf and rack of lamb, burgers, fish and chips and a variety of salads. Clam chowder is also on the menu.

We enjoyed visiting with several of the guests in the lounge, a mix of mostly out of towners who were escaping the heat of the valley and appreciating the cool weather at the coast and a few other locals. The visitors were not looking forward to returning to the heat and were already planning another escape to Florence. We watched the waves crash on the shore, people walking on the beach and other guests come in to dine. We decided that next time we will insist on sitting at a window table, especially on an evening that we can watch the sunset.

Surfside Restaurant at Driftwood Shores is open 7 days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

SAVOR THE Flavor

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Surfside Restaurant

RIB- A- QUE THURSDAY \$12.50

- Ribs topped w/ BBQ Sauce
- Eric's Homemade Potato Salad
 - Baked Beans
 - Fresh Corn on the Cob

Hours: 4 p.m. -9 p.m.
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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.

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