

RESTAURANT REVIEW: Grassi's in Frontenac. Okay there are plenty of restaurants in Frontenac, but there are no fast food joints. Maybe the closest you can get to that is Grassi's at 10450 German Blvd. If Conway Road went straight across Lindbergh Blvd from Ladue to Frontenac instead of jogging one block to the south, it would be where German Blvd. is now.

Grassi's is two blocks from Lindbergh. You cannot see it from Lindbergh. It is in a non-assuming frame building and offers mostly reasonably price Italian food for lunch or dinner.



It is a combination of cafeteria style and table service. You get a tray, your silver wear and napkins. If your order includes an Italian salad you get that while in line. The rest of your meal is brought to your table, not all together, but when the food is ready. I like that. There is no high tech ordering. On our second trip the woman taking the orders literally screamed them out so not only everyone in the kitchen could hear it, so could everyone in the dining room.

We made two trips to Grassi's. The first one was salad and sandwiches. I went for the most expensive thing on the menu, the Angus Steak sandwich for \$11.50. The sandwich was on toasted garlic cheese bread. My wife went with Chicken Parmigiana at \$8.90. We shared her salad so I substituted fries with my order.

My steak sandwich was excellent. The meat was tender and I didn't have to leave any fat or grizzle on the plate. The bread was very tasty but did not take away from the favor of the steak.



My wife said her sandwich was tasty and had no complaints. The chicken was tender and moist. Perhaps there was a bit of of an overdose of red sauce with the chicken and cheese.



While the salad bowl looks small, they cram a lot of salad into it. Unless you are part rabbit you really don't need to upgrade to a large order.

The French fries (\$3) were above average and had the taste of "double" fried potatoes plus they had seasoning. My one complaint being a person that likes ketchup with my fries was that they only had the little packets of ketchup to go with a very large order of fries. Now I am a fat guy and as good as the fries were, I could not eat them all. I would suggest having someone to share them with.

Our next trip involved Lasagna (\$9.49), a side of Pasta Alfredo (\$4.79) and a pizza. On our prior visit we were told they had "St. Louis style pizza." That turned out to be only partially true.

I ordered a 9-inch two topping pizza (\$8.77). When it arrived it was not in squares, but was in slices. On my first bit the cheese pulled away from my mouth leaving a white string bridge back to the slice. The cheese was not St. Louis style Provel, but a combination of provolone, mozzarella and provolone. Frankly the pizza was fine, but it certainly was not St. Louis Style other than being very thin crust. However, I would order it again.



The pasta Alfredo was interesting. It was a large serving for a side order. The pasta was not noodles and was instead shells. This was good as I did not spray any sauce onto my sweatshirt wrapping noodles around a fork. However, the order did not pass the Olive Garden test, as it did not meet the quality of the Olive Garden's side of Pasta Alfredo. Also the sauce had more of the consistency of milk gravy. That is not to say I did not like it. Much as the fries from a week earlier the serving was large and even as a fat guy, I was unable to finish it.



My wife complained that the Lasagna (not pictured) was a little short on meat. The highlight of the meal was actually the toasted cheese garlic bread. This was really good.

The other thing I like is that they put substance ahead of style. None of the furniture matched. I like that even if the last place I saw like that at was Katie's which I hated.



Grassi's isn't cheap like a Subway sandwich, but it certainly isn't overpriced like a lot of "Italian" places tend to be. It definitely doesn't fit the image of most overpriced restaurants in Frontenac. Some things are better than others but the overall experience was pleasant and I would go back.