

Restaurant Review 30 Katie's Pizza and Pasta Rock Hill May 16, 2015

KATIE'S PIZZA AND PASTA FOR PEOPLE NOT FROM ST. LOUIS: On a Saturday night things were packed at Katie's Pizza and Pasta in Rock Hill in the shopping center at Manchester and Rock Hill Road. The place at first glance was my kind of place.



All the tables and chairs were different. For our party of five we had two tables pushed together. None of the tables or chairs matched. Unfortunately for me that was the highlight of the evening.



This was clearly a place for people used to east and west coast Italian and not St. Louis Italian. There was no Pasta Alfredo, the first Spaghetti dish on the menu is seafood and is with black squid ink. The pizza selection...forget about it. There was one normal sounding pizza. The rest included squash pizza, fig and squash pizza plus pear pizza.

Two of us were ready to walk across the street to Farotto's after just reading the menu. A third joined us in that wish after the food arrived.

We ordered the 6-hour Braised Short Ribs, and I'll mention it was ribs in the plural, for \$14 to share at the table. We had a hard time finding the "ribs" which was surrounded by some risotto sauce and covered in leafy garnish. There was only one rib that when the meat was removed and shared, came to five small bites of rib. Costs per bit...\$2.80. The meat was good, three people liked the risotto. Was it worth \$14? No!



Next up on the shared appetizer list was the CALABRIAN CHILI SEARED PRAWNS on top of puree root vegetables \$14. The prawns were great, but there was no cocktail sauce to dip them in. (Just kidding) "With celery root puree and funghi sotto olio," begs the question...Why ruin perfect fully good shrimp with this stuff? Again this is asked by someone who should have been at Farotto's.



More Prawns: They had no pasta with a white or Alfredo sauce. My waitress suggested I try Capellini, with seared prawns, heirloom cherry tomatoes, garlic, basil, chili flake and bottarga for \$22.



Now I'm a fat guy and I like pasta. Two bites were all I could handle of this oddly seasoned pasta. That said my wife tried some and thought it was okay. Like everything else with prawns, the prawns themselves were tasty.

Our friend who loves Katie's had the PACCHERI PASTA CARBONARA, NDUJA, LEEKS, PEA SHOOTS (\$16). He raved about it.



Pizza: With my wife it was back to prawns as she ordered a prawn pizza (\$19).



She gave me a piece. I ate it only because by this point in the evening I was hungry. She asked if I wanted another piece. I declined.

Someone else at the table ordered the Neapolitan Meatball pizza (\$17).



I didn't get to try the meatball pizza, but half the crust was nicely burned to a blackened crisp.

DESSERT: All the desserts are \$7.50. We choose the best one to share, the Ricotta Donuts with fresh berries and gelato. The gelato was unlike any gelato I have ever encountered. It was frozen solid. The berries were tiny, and the price was \$7.50. I can get 25 Munchkins (donut holes) at Dunkin Donuts for \$5.99.



Katie's 6 for \$7.50



Dunkin Donuts 25 for \$5.99 or 50 for \$8.99