

Restaurant Review 2 Mia Sorella August 17, 2014

**FOOD: MIA SORELLA NOT THE PLACE FOR ME FOR LUNCH:** The sign outside should have been a warning (places that claim to have great food and have no waiting usually means one of two things...overpriced or not so great)...however we followed our waitress' instructions and ordered the most popular thing on the luncheon menu. It was a big mistake.

Jean Whitney, my old patch.com editor who usually was pretty good at doing her job (there is always a little tension between writer and editor) is back in town and agreed to go with me and try some local places for lunch. We cannot afford doing restaurant reviews based on dinner entrees. just too expensive.

Mia Sorella's is located at 14426 Clayton Road in the new shopping center next to the CVS store on the corner of Clayton Road and Henry Road. Technically it is in Ballwin, but the street in front of the place is Chesterfield.



We were seated quickly at 1:15 on a weekday afternoon. The place was maybe half full. The waitress explained the specials , included a steak sandwich on cheese bread. The menu also had a roast beef sandwich on cheese bread. I told the waitress to please steer me in the right direction. I said I was considering the cheeseburger, steak sandwich and roast beef. Our waitress said the cheeseburger was the most popular lunch item and she would recommend that. She explained that it came with bacon bits and a sauce that was a combination of sweet jelly and onion. I asked for the sauce on the side, so I could be sure to taste the burger.

I also ordered a side of pasta Alfredo. I always like to compare a simple pasta side and see if it is better or worse than what I would buy at the Olive Garden.

Jean ordered a luncheon special of smoked chicken with mushrooms and spinach fettuccini.



When the food arrived I found that the cheeseburger did have melted cheese on it, but was well undercooked from my medium request and was missing the bacon bits. It got sent back.

When it returned we found it was mostly tasteless without the sauce. With the sauce I found it had an overpowering sweet jelly favor and left me not wanting to finish it.

The truffle fries were not remarkable.

But what was amazing was that a cheeseburger, that me a fat guy did not even finish with only "average at best" fries cost \$12.99.

I also picked the Olive Garden's Fettucini Alfredo over Mia Sorella.

Now let's talk cheeseburgers...the annual top cheeseburgers in St. Louis are the ones at Blueberry Hill at \$7.50 and at O'Connell's Pub, at just \$6.25. If you want to stay in Chesterfield and get a cheeseburger go down to Smitty's (\$6.95) at Clayton and Baxter or out to the Hanger Grill (\$8.45) in Chesterfield Valley. You can go next door at the Ranch Circle 7 Pub and Grill and get a much better cheeseburger for \$9.49.

If you want to pay too much for a pretty good burger, go east on Clayton Road one block to the overpriced Cooper's Hawk. There a much better cheeseburger is \$10.99.

As for as fries go...just go to Cheeburger...Cheeburger on Manchester Road or at Chesterfield Mall. They make fresh hand cut fries to order for a couple of bucks. The best onion rings around are still at either Cheeberger...Cheeburger or Charlotte's Rib.

Jean did liked her smoked chicken special and rated it better than something at Olive Garden. The pasta and chicken lunch special was \$11.99 and Jean's Diet Pepsi was \$3.00.

In fairness both the Post-Dispatch (under their former reviewer) and St. Louis Magazine gave favorable reviews that did not include burgers. However Ian Froeb, the former Riverfront Times food critic who has been at the Post-Dispatch for a year has not reviewed the place.





Mia Sorella pasta Alfredo



Olive Garden Pasta Alfredo

But the overall lesson learned at Mia Sorella, **DON'T GO THERE FOR A CHEESEBURGER!**