

Restaurant Review 22 Rich and Charlie's December 9, 2014

RESTAURANT REVIEW: For about a year on most Thursday nights my wife and I would play on a trivia team (Quartos Stupidos) at Fuzzy's Tacos on Watson Road in Webster Groves. Frankly the food was cheap but not that good and we would sometimes leave early and eat somewhere else on the way to Fuzzy's. Often we would stop at Joe Baccardi's for a pizza on most nights and sometimes a pasta dish.

One of the people on our team lives in the area and has been to both Baccardi's and Rich and Charlie's. We asked if we should try Rich and Charlie's on Watson Road. Our friend advised that we should keep going to Baccardi's.

I thought of her recommendation when Jean Whitney suggested we go to the Rich and Charlie's on Woods Mill Road at Clayton Road. It would be the last Jean would join us for a restaurant review for the winter as she was returning to Phoenix after cleaning out most of her Chesterfield house. She plans to be back in April to put the place off Schoettler Road on the market.

So Rich and Charlie's it was. We arrived at 7:15 and the place was packed. They crammed in an amazing number of tables and chairs in a limited space. Space at a table is good if you are petite, but when the place is crowded it is almost like eating in coach on an American Airliner. One might think a crowd meant good food ahead. Not necessarily!



Jean ordered the Tuttimare (\$14.50). It is advertised as "Long flat spaghetti-like noodles with Shrimp, clams and chunks of Surimi in a light cream sauce with mushrooms,

tomatoes and garlic." What arrived didn't match the description on the menu. The "sauce" was much more like a soup. Jean frankly was not crazy about it for both freshness and taste.



My wife Diana ordered the Penne Ronzio (\$12.45). She won't be writing any food review for the NY Times anytime soon. Her take on the Penne Ronzio..."average at best" and not a good value for price.



I did what I always do when trying an Italian restaurant. I order Fettuccine Alfredo (\$12.65) and then compare it to what is offered at the Olive Garden (\$12.99). On this night I also chose the half of roast beef sandwich and a salad (\$10.25).

A half of Roast Beef sandwich was HUGE...I'm so glad I did not get a whole regular roast beef (\$9.95) because it wasn't that good. Once again...I'm a fat guy and I did not eat the whole thing.



As for the Fettuccine Alfredo...it had the same problem as Jean's Tuttimare...it was not covered in sauce, but it was drowned in some white watery stuff. Olive Garden Fetteccine Alfredo wins hands down.



Rich and Charlie's



Olive Garden

That just leaves the salads...Even the dinner salad that came with my sandwich was large. The Rich and Charlie's Large Salad (\$7.95) was delivered in a mixing bowl. There is one problem with the salads. If you don't like Italian Dressing you are screwed. Our salads were the highlight of the evening, but even then it was disappointing finding some tired and discolored lettuce in both salads.



Jean was a little disappointed since she was the one who pushed Rich and Charlie's. My wife also wanted to give them a try. Jean picked up the tab for our last restaurant review meal in 2014 and commented, "At least the salads are still good."