

Restaurant Review 31 Walnut Grill Clayton Road and Clarkson August 26, 2015

**RESTAURANT REVIEW: THE WALNUT GRILL ELLISVILLE** I think I liked Chevy's Tex-Mex better. The Chevy's restaurant in the shopping center on the southwest side of Clayton and Clarkson Roads went out of business several years ago. I ate there once and had a nice lunch. I was wanting to try the new place that took over the space so when neighbors offered to take my wife and I to the Walnut Grill I jumped at the chance.

The Walnut Grill is a small chain with five restaurants in Pennsylvania and the one in Ellisville.



We arrived at 7:20 on a Wednesday night. You could not find a spot on the parking lot near the restaurant. However we went in and found the dining room was over half empty. The crowd was people under-30 on the patio.

Our hosts ordered the Chicken Spiedini (\$17) and a walnut salad, plus Balsminic Chicken and mashed potatoes.



They reported the food was fine, but they only ate half of the portion and did not want to take any leftovers home. I tried the mash potatoes. They are made with Ranch

Dressing. Ranch dressing might be good on salads, but it is awful mixed in with mashed potatoes.

My wife, who lived in Rome for a year, ordered the Parmesan Crusted Chicken and Gnocchi. Her report was the gnocchi was overcooked and the chicken was "okay."



The place has "Grill" in its name so I ordered the strip steak, \$24. I should have known better since they only had three "grill meat items."



The first clue the steak was not going to be that good was that it was covered in other stuff hiding the flavor of the meat. In this case it was gorgonzola bacon-butter, wild mushrooms (why would someone want to put a fungus on a steak?) and crispy onions.

The crispy onions belong in the holiday green bean casserole. I scrapped off the mushrooms (they are a fungus the same as athlete's foot) and deposited them on my wife's plate. The first two slices of the steak were filled with grizzle as were the last two. The middle of the steak was tender but was overpowered by the taste of everything else that had been piled on it.

The best part of the meal were the asparagus and the baked potato. After leaving I thanked out hosts, as I had wanted to try the Walnut Grill for some time. I was glad I went because it showed me how good Chevy's Tex-Mex had been.