

RESTAURANT REVIEW Espinos 17409 Chesterfield Airport Road Dec 27 2018

We have eaten at Espino's located in a strip center in Chesterfield Valley several times. I like it but I'm not much of a Mexican food expert. The one thing I can say about the place, whether it is a weeknight or a weekend the place is always crowded at dinner time.



The reason we were at Espino's besides having good meals there in the past was the fact that Anita Rosamond was performing (as a single). We arrived on Thursday December 27 at 6:40pm. It was difficult getting through the front door.

Anita was just inside the bar with her back against a window and her keyboard in front of her and a speaker to the side. It was almost impossible to see her. There were so many people with their names on the list for a table in the dining room standing around. It begged the question, with crowds this big, why do they need entertainment?



Here is the crowd waiting for a table in the bar.



Here is Anita trying to give a waive to us at the end of the bar.

Anita's normal fans are, let's say at the upper end of middle age and beyond. This crowd did not meet that description.

When it was decided we were going to eat at the bar, a basket of chips and sauce quickly arrived.



My wife had earlier had something to eat, so she did not want a full meal. Even though still being a "fat guy" although 40-pounds less than a year ago, I can't eat like I used too. I ordered the Steak Taco Dinner of three soft tacos with cheese hidden between two taco rolls, slices of steak and onions. There was not a lot of messy or highly spicy sauce, so I liked my taco a lot. The plate came with refried beans and rice, plus guacamole, sour cream, and some tasty pico de gallo. (\$14.35)

My wife ordered Guacamole (\$8.95) and a "Top Shelf" brand margarita at \$8.75.



The soft taco entre became a clean plate. I had one taco, my wife had one and when Anita took a break and sat with us she had the third taco. We all liked them. Strips of streak can be chewy and tough, but these were tender with a hint of seasoning and with the onions made them tasty at least to my palate.



Between my wife and Anita the Guacamole was gone.

The only down side on the night, besides the crowd was the middle-aged lady bartender who was borderline rude and no fun to interact with.

Espino's is a bit on the pricey side for a little place in a strip mall, but locals clearly like the place and I have never had a bad eating experience there.

Speaking of Beans and Rice! Every couple of months if we are going to Sasha's on DeMunn in Clayton to listen to jazz on Wednesday night featuring a trio lead by Jim Manley on trumpet, we will dine out before showing up for the music at a favorite spot in

Brentwood at 8101 Manchester Road. Sparing no expense my favorite place is Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen (chicken joint) where we get red beans and rice and usually chicken strips.



The staff, who apparently all take the Metro or busses from the nearby Metro Station on Manchester at Laclede Station Road because we never see cars behind the building, are always nice. We had planned to order three chicken strips and split them, plus our own sides of red beans and rice. I have to say if the Popeye's is on their game, their Red Beans and Rice is as good as any I have had in New Orleans.

On this night there was a New Year's sign in the window advertising the good luck dish of blacked eyed peas. When I began to order all my ala carte items, A.J. the ast. manager at the counter stopped me and said it would be cheaper if we ordered a basket with 4-pieces of chicken strips, a biscuit and a side. He saved us a couple of dollars. The basket should come with one biscuit. Ours came with two. My wife wanted to try and black eyed peas and the night manager came over and said, they (Popeye's) didn't send very much and there is only one small dish left. She gave them to us at no charge.

The bill was \$8.80. I left a \$2.20 tip, something a little unusual at a fast food place.



Missing from the photo was my large order of Red Beans and Rice and biscuit.