

## OLLI Restaurant Explorations Fall 2015

### Chauhan Ale and Masala House

**123 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. N**

Maneet Chauhan is a celebrity chef on the Food Network channel, specializing in Indian cuisine with an “American interpretation.” The restaurant is in a revamped brick building that has retained much of its older charm. There is a full bar with a small but very craft-friendly beer selection. Everyone loved their food. You can specify a spice (i.e. hot) level if you choose. Medium seems to work for the majority. Senior friendly? Noise level was very tolerable for lunch time. Booth seating was comfortable. Bathrooms are dimly lighted but rather cute. Plenty of lighting. Important for anyone with back problems: Make sure you ask for booth seating. There are additional tables with metal chairs that are terrible. Have a drink and relax, if necessary, while waiting for a booth seat. UPDATE: Valet parking has been eliminated for lunch.

### The Tavern

**1904 Broadway**

Larger than expected space with two levels. Huge bar. The menu has tremendous variety – something for everyone. The food was good and the service was friendly and competent. Very nice bathrooms. Senior friendly: The ceilings are high and lots of reflective surfaces. This means the restaurant can get very noisy when busy. Recommendation – go after the business crowd has thinned.

### Biscuit Love

**316 11th Ave**

Restaurant is stupidly popular -- expect a wait. (Don't even think of going for brunch on weekends.) Bare bones, but trendy and clean décor. No sit-down table service. You order at the cash register, grab a number and the food is brought to you. Interesting and inventive menu, with lots of breakfast items served during lunch. Food was excellent and service was fine. Pricing was moderate. Low cost parking is in the lot across from Bar Louie, 11<sup>th</sup> and Pine. There are several craft brews on tap, but the bar area is meant for diners, so it's impossible to just try a beer. Senior Friendly: Chairs could have been more comfortable. The place is always busy and always noisy. But, the restaurant is easy to find...just look for the line out the door.

### Party Fowl

**719 8th Ave S**

Deceptively large place with a lower and upper level and bars on both levels. Sports bar atmosphere with lots of wood tables and chairs and plenty of TVs. Menu focuses on chicken (not a surprise) with lots of variety, inventive presentation and preparation and spice level. Great food, good service and the prices were what you'd expect. The place is popular with the gulch crowd, so the diners tend to be younger, but no older person would feel out of place. Valet Parking. There were lots of diners but the noise level did not interfere with conversation. The wood seats are not meant for seniors, so bring a cushion.

### Pizzareal

#### **203 N 11th St**

Restaurant is in an old house. Parking in back. Food was okay. Service was slow and we were the only people (four of us) in the place. I'd try other pizza places before I went back here to see if we just hit a bad day.

### Americano's

#### **1720 West End Avenue, #100**

Americano's is in the old West End Café, on West End and 16<sup>th</sup>. Americano's specializes in Spanish Tapas which are small dishes with a very different flavor profile compared to Mexican dishes. Presentation is beautiful. The restaurant is very spacious with plenty of places for large or small groups. Full bar with a decent beer listing. Parking in rear. The menu is inventive and you'll want to order more than one tapas. Expect to share with a companion and have a "leisurely" lunch time. Chairs were comfortable and the noise level was fine. We were there with a large group (about 8 people) and they accommodated us with a problem.

### Burger Republic

#### **420 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South**

Burger Republic is located in the Gulch, just a couple of doors down from The Pub. Parking is at the parking lot at 11<sup>th</sup> street and Pine Street – convenient and inexpensive. The menu allows you to first choose a protein (beef, chicken, turkey, vege) and then to choose how you want it topped (so many choices, and all excellent). Burgers come with one side item which becomes a tough choice. A couple of folks highly recommends the Tator Tots. Great (make that excellent) beer selection focusing on local craft brews. The booth seats were comfortable, but the bar seats or outdoor seats could be a problem. The bathrooms were good, but not wonderful.

### Blackstone's Restaurant and Brewery

#### **1918 West End Avenue**

Blackstone's is on West End, between 19<sup>th</sup> and 20th and right next to Amerigo's. The menu has plenty of moderately-priced options. Parking area is huge. Seating area is large and noise level is quite tolerable. They brew their own beer with a nice variety of lagers, ales and hoppy (i.e. bitterness) levels. There is a full bar. One of the menu items is "Build your own Pizza." You pick the sauce and then pick from a large selection of toppings. The pizza dough is more like a rich and thick cracker. Unique and very good. Some things to try: the artichoke soup, pretzel appetizer, muffalatta sandwich, and the shepherd's pie.

### Ted's Montana Grill

#### **2817 West End Avenue #100**

The restaurant is located in a small shopping area across from Centennial Park. Parking is inadequate during prime lunch time, so plan on going before 11:30, or after 1:00. Ted's décor is meant to mimic a family restaurant from out west with dark wood and lots of pictures of the old west. The menu is expansive with lots of sandwich and larger plate options. All burgers can be ordered with beef, bison, or chicken. Bison is much leaner than beef and can easily be overcooked but Ted's does it right. Make sure you get an order of French fries which are cooked on site in peanut oil. Service is always good. Full bar. Bathrooms are "quirky" but fine. For something different, try sitting at the bar where you can really admire the woodwork and feel like you're in a restaurant from many years past.

## Tenn Sixteen

### **1016 Woodland Street**

The restaurant easily accommodated our party of 7. The atmosphere is “laid back” but very comfortable. It was not crowded or loud and the group was able to easily converse with anyone at the table. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their food. Of special note, several people ordered the gumbo and it received rave reviews. The group shared a fried green tomato appetizer. The breading was seasoned perfectly and the dish was served with a wonderful chutney. Service was attentive and timely but it should be noted that our server was in training and being mentored at the time. Several of the bills were wrong but were quickly corrected. Additional items of note: Bathrooms were good. The menus could use a new printing, but were still easy to understand and the variety of options was perfect for the group. There is a full bar with an exceptional beer list. Parking is just down the street at a public lot. (Very reasonable cost.)