

RESTAURANT UPDATE

La Griglia

2002 West Gray • Houston, TX • 713.526.4700

This solidly established restaurant at the eastern boundary of River Oaks was originally owned by Tony Vallone and is now part of the Landry's group. It has been the scene of countless thousands of "power lunches of the rich and famous," and besides that the food is exceptionally good. The bar scene is not bad either, and one actually should look forward to 'waiting in the bar until a table is ready'! Starters include Sautéed shrimp with garlic and white wine over spinach, Lobster enchilada, and Clams Principessa, fresh clams, escarole, pinot grigio and garlic crostini. A wide variety of delicious pasta selections include Tortelloni di Pollo, porcini mushrooms, chicken, and white truffle oil; Fra Diavola, fedelini with Maine lobster, mussels, clams, tomatoes, and crushed red peppers; Rigatoni peperonata, Parmesan crusted chicken, sweet peppers, garlic and goat cheese. Salads are numerous, and include La Griglia's chopped salad, iceberg lettuce, roasted chicken, provolone, applewood smoked bacon, with tomato vinaigrette, Torre di Granchio, chilled jumbo lump crab tower with baby spinach, roasted tomato, and basil; and Beef carpaccio, roasted garlic and parmesan croquettes, horseradish, and basil oil. Chicken and barley, Shrimp bisque, and "Sicilian penicillin" make up some of the more interesting soups. Main courses include Veal Valdaostano, sautéed scaloppine with Fontina cheese, mushrooms, and Marsala sauce, Roasted wild boar chop with savory Parmesan mashed potatoes topped with aged sherry morel sauce and Rotisserie Maple Farms roasted duck with wild rice and fresh raspberry sauce. A selection of pizzas is always available.

Bistro Don Camillo

6510 Del Monte between Voss and Winrock • Houston, TX • 713.782.3011

This exciting new French bistro is owned by the same proprietors as Bistro Provence and is cozy and authentic. It occupies the space taken for thirty years by Roland's Swiss Bakery. Daily specials at lunch and dinner excite the palate at this wonderful addition to Houston's (affordable) French restaurant scene. Appetizers include Frog legs Don Camillo; Stuffed mussels with garlic butter; Salmon carpaccio with basil, lemon, olive oil, and parmesan chips. Soups include Pistou, mixed vegetables and basil from Provence; and Soupe de poisson, fish soup with authentic rich stock served with aioli and croutons and grated cheese. Pizzas from the wood burning oven come in the following flavors: Riviera, tomato, ham, bell peppers, mushrooms, anchovies, olive, and Swiss cheese; Mediterannee, tomato, seafood medley, bell pepper, anchovy, olive, Swiss cheese, and Italienne, tomato capers, pepperoni, Ricotta, Parmesan. Pastas and fish include Sea scallop and shrimp over fettucine and basil cream sauce; Calamari farcis, stuffed with chicken mousse and herbs; and Goujonettes de poisson, tiny fish filets fried, served with French tartar sauce. Specialties and grilled items are French beef stew, Breaded veal Milanaise (scaloppini); Lapin sauce poivrade (rabbit stew), Brochette d'agneau, lamb brochette, and Brochette de Caille, quail kebab with polenta. All to be washed down of course with a nice bottle of French wine!

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Note: By way of qualification for reviewing restaurants, Hankamer has owned and operated numerous restaurants, coffee shops, hotels, dispensaries and banquet halls over the last forty years; he has travelled to over 70 countries and has studied and lived in Europe for over three years; he was co-owner of a home delivery wine of the month club and imported his own wine labels for years. The opinions expressed in Hankamer Commercial RESTAURANT UPDATE are the opinion of Hankamer only and these opinions may not be shared by RFD News or any other advertising medium in which UPDATE appears.
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