

RESTAURANT UPDATE

TRULUCK'S STEAKHOUSE

5350 Westheimer • Houston 77056 • 713.783.7270

Truluck's has moved from its location on Westheimer just west of Fountainview to a new luxurious location closer to the Galleria. While billing itself as a 'steakhouse,' Truluck's has always been known as 'the' place to eat Florida stone crabs and other excellently prepared fresh seafood items. It is the Galleria area's new "in" restaurant. The new location features a large and welcoming bar area, and on a recent night beautiful blonde jazz songbird Jane Vandiver was crooning from the piano bar to a packed house. Truluck's copious menu begins with fresh oysters from the East Coast, and with Florida stone crabs. Appetizers (large portions) include Sauteed superlump crab-cake; Grilled seafood stuffed Portabella mushroom; Tuna tartare tower with tomato and avocado; and Oysters Rockefeller. Soups and Salads include Cream of poblano pepper soup; Spicy crab and artichoke soup; and Caesar salad with anchovies and sourdough croutons. Steaks and Chops include Pepper-coated bone-in Cowboy ribeye; Frenched Pork rib chops; and Filet of beef Oscar, center cut filet of beef topped with Dungeness crab meat, shaved asparagus, and jalapeno bearnaise. Seafood Creations include Avery Island king prawns; Fiery Pacific Rim snapper, fried crispy in Japanese breadcrumbs with stir-fried vegetables in spicy Thai chili sauce; Jalapeno salmon, topped with blue crab meat, Gulf shrimp, and bearnaise sauce, served over signature parmesan mashed potatoes; Flounder Ponchartrain (Hankamer's favorite), served over rice with piquante Creole sauce, baby Gulf shrimp, and plump crawfish tails; and Oven baked Caribbean lobster tail, with lemon garlic butter. Dungeness crab, Barents Sea red king crab, and a Florida stone crab platter round out this adventuresome menu.

UROPA

3302 Mercer • Houston 77027 • 713.627.1132

This low-profile under-the-radar little hideaway has been in business for a number of years on a little quiet street near the intersection of West Alabama and Buffalo Speedway, and the only way to identify it after dark is to look for the valet parking and host's stand, and the waiting line which forms after 10 PM, after which time the club is usually packed inside. Open currently only on Friday and Saturday (cover charge) and for private parties, Club Uropa is an exciting European "feel" bar and disco, catering to a very stylish set of 20- and 30-Somethings, who come not only as couples but singly and in small groups as well: all the better for mingling. For a glimpse of the scene, visit the Web site at www.cluburopa.com and click on "Pics." Featuring several different rooms - "Dance Floor" (disco), "Library," "Patio," "Red Room," "Main Bar," and "Sinatra Room" - the club throbs with music, dancing, mingling, or just quiet and sedate hanging out on deep, comfy sofas, depending on the mood of the particular patron. This is one of Houston's best people watching venues, folks! The mixed drinks are generous and varied, to suit the tastes of the habitués. Club Uropa is a great way to put a nice finishing touch on an evening, or to give visiting firemen from out of town a taste of the level of sophistication of Houston's younger set.

For more information on Hankamer & Associates or any of our current listings, please visit our website at www.hankamer.com, or call Ray Hankamer at 713.789.7060, ext.1205. Your comments are welcome: rhankamer@hankamer.com

Note: By way of qualifications for reviewing restaurants, Hankamer has owned and operated numerous restaurants, coffee shops, hotels, discotheques 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 opinions of Hankamer only and these opinions may not be shared by RED News or any other advertising medium in which UPDATE appears. © 2007 Ray Hankamer, Hankamer Commercial/Hankamer & Associates.