

RESTAURANT UPDATE

FUAD'S RESTAURANT

6100 Westheimer • Houston, TX • 713.785.0130

This hidden-away small storefront restaurant across the parking lot from The Palm has been open over thirty years and is a Houston tradition. It is unique in many ways, most notably in that it has no menu. The kitchen will fix what you like. (Correspondingly, the prices of your selections arrive at the end of the meal, with your bill.) Intimate and dimly lighted, speakeasy-like Fuad's has long been rumored to be a place where it is best not to take one's wife on a weeknight. Once seated, the dinner guest is greeted by a host in a chef's uniform, who asks what sort of meal the guest may have in mind. With nothing in writing, the 'chef' takes the sometimes complex order to the kitchen, and soon thereafter the various phases and stages of the 'custom' meal begin to arrive. Fish, chops, pasta dishes, and just about anything else to be found on a "Continental" menu are available, and under the circumstances meals arrive without an unusually long wait. All meals are accompanied by a large and varied plate of vegetables, which include mashed potatoes, Brussel sprouts, asparagus, carrots, and steamed cauliflower. There is a varied choice of wines, and of cocktails from the clubby little bar area at the rear of the dining room, which boasts a mix of regulars and newcomers, who all seem to know each other well before the first drink is half-finished. Flambee desserts such as Bananas Foster and Cherries Jubilee are prepared tableside, and are enjoyed by most diners. Fuad's is definitely worth experiencing, whether on a weeknight or on a weekend!

SEGARI'S RESTAURANT

1503 Shepherd Drive • Houston, TX • 713.880.2470

Also falling in the under-the-radar, speakeasy classification (small menu, but without prices), tiny Segari's has a clubby atmosphere, which is accentuated by the buzz coming from the regulars at their regular stools at the bar. With only nine tables, Segari's must depend on regulars and on impeccably prepared fresh food and friendly service to stand shoulder to shoulder with larger establishments. Appetizers include Seafood and sausage gumbo, Crabmeat cocktail, Sam's ceviche (shrimp, salmon, and redfish), and Angela's crab cakes, with wasabi and tartar sauce. Grilled fish entrees, which can be topped with shrimp and crabmeat include Rainbow trout, Salmon, and Redfish. Other seafood entrees include Jumbo shrimp, fried, cold, sauteed, grilled, or bacon wrapped; Crab claws, Fried oysters, Jalapeno fried shrimp, or Seafood platter for two or more people. Grilled meat entrees include Rack of lamb, Veal chop, Pork Chop, and Ribeye steak. Side are available to accompany all entrees, and they include Mixed vegetable medley, Rosemary new potatoes, and Onion rings. Desserts are in the spotlight at Segari's, and are accorded top billing on the menu. They include Bread pudding with whiskey sauce, Coconut or Lemon meringue pie, S'mores brownie, and Chocolate mousse. Wines and a full bar are available to complement any meal. Open for lunch and dinner.

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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.