

## RESTAURANT UPDATE

### THE STATE GRILLE

2925 Wesleyan • Houston 77027 • 713.622.1936

Let's start with the desserts at this wonderful restaurant! Why be normal? Jack Daniel's Bourbon Pecan Pie a la mode; traditional Creme brulee, covered with a hard caramel glaze; South Texas blackberry cobbler with a lattice crust served a la mode; and Chocolate Decadence, layers of luscious chocolate cake, dark chocolate shavings, and white and dark chocolate mousse topped with whipped cream!!! Got your attention?

At The State Grille, whose traditional and cozy decor nonetheless has a contemporary feel, diners can start their meals with Baked escargots, Texas Gulf coast lump crabcake, Shrimp Damian or Pistachio shrimp. A rich selection of salads includes Shrimp traditional, Gulf shrimp tossed in remoulade sauce over mixed greens and avocado; and Crab Louis, served with lettuce, tomato, and avocado. Pastas include Pasta Pappagano, pasta with artichoke hearts, mozzarella cheese, tomatoes, basil and red pepper flakes, tossed in a Parmesan cream sauce; and Rose Modica's pasta Bolognese, in a savory sauce with pork, beef, and veal served over pappardella pasta. Entrees include Hill Country lamb chops, marinated in olive oils, herbs and grilled with roasted potatoes and sauteed spinach; Pecos short ribs, braised with pad drippings and served with cheese grits and sauteed mixed vegetables; and Veal osso bucco (served Friday and Saturday only) served with polenta, asparagus spears, and balsamic onions. On the seafood side Port Aransas red snapper topped with lemon butter sauce, basil, diced tomatoes, and crabmeat with roasted potatoes and sauteed spinach leads the menu; Chilean sea bass sauteed with lemon butter sauce and served with mushroom risotto; and Mediterranean rainbow trout, prepared in light tomato con-casse with capers, Kalamata olives, garlic, shallots, and artichoke hearts, with polenta and sautéed spinach. Sandwiches and daily specials are reasonably priced and include Chicken and dumplings; Fresh crab burger; and Triple Texas club sandwich. A cozy bar provides a secluded spot for intimate meetings.

### WOLFGANG PUCK EXPRESS

10001 Westheimer Road • Houston 77042 • 713.266.9739

This perky little self-service restaurant with a big-time name does a brisk business with its provocative, varied, and imminently affordable menu. Signature pizzas include Four cheese, BBQ Chicken, Margherita, and Spicy shrimp. Pastas include Penne with prosciutto and peas, and Linguine with chicken Bolognese. Half Rosemary chicken and Wolfgang Puck burger appear under the heading "Wolfgang's Specials." Salads include Chinois chicken (ever been to Chinois on Main in Santa Monica?), Thai noodle salad, and Young spinach salad. The sandwich menu includes Pesto chicken, Chicken caesar, Smoked ham and provolone, and Roasted vegetable. Sides include Herbed French fries, Garlic mashed potatoes, and Fresh baked herbed bread. Eclectic and very tasty menu, and we emphasize once again that the prices are user-friendly.

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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.*