

## CAPTAIN BENNY'S SEAFOOD & OYSTER BAR

8506 South Main, Houston, Texas 77025

Remember Captain Benny's on Main Street? Great whole fried catfish, cold beer, oysters on the half shell, and a convivial atmosphere with an honor system at check-out to boot? Well Captain Benny's is still going strong on Main Street at Old Spanish Trail, across from the Houston Texans training field. Great gumbo, friendly staff who treat you like family, lots of good food, including crawfish étouffée, fried, or sautéed; catfish fillets or whole fried fish; and broiled snapper, flounder, or scallops. The fried shrimp here are impressive, and are accompanied by fries, hush puppies and garlic toast. Gumbo is a good starter, and the prices are appropriate for a casual dining experience. Be prepared for a wait for a seat at the counter on a busy night, and be prepared for a boisterous crowd on most nights. There are several of the distinctive little Captain Benny's "shrimp boat" restaurants around the Houston area, but the one on South Main has always been our favorite.

## CLUB NO MINORS (EL PATIO MEXICAN RESTAURANT)

6444 Westheimer Road Houston, TX 77057

Remember the pressure-cooker clubs in Houston in the '70's, where it was so dark that if someone you didn't want to see you came in the front door, you had time to drink up, pay the tab, kiss your companion good-bye and slip out the back before the newcomer's eyes adjusted to the dark? Well folks, Club No Minors, named for the adhesive letters stuck to the door, is just as dark. Once inside, however, the adventurous diner finds a noisy, intimate little room with attentive service, strong margaritas, cold beer, and very good Mexican food. Especially memorable are the seafood dishes, such as Pescado Acapulco, broiled snapper topped with tomatoes and cilantro butter, Camarones Vallarta, plump shrimp stuffed with cheese and jalapeno peppers, and Crawfish Tacos, corn tortillas stuffed with butter-sautéed crawfish tails and with shredded lettuce, cabbage, and pico de gallo. The fresh chiles rellenos are among the best in Houston, and to start off this feast you might want to try the appetizer Parilla Mixta, four grilled bacon-wrapped quail legs and four bacon-wrapped jumbo shrimp. From the menu and the atmosphere, you just might think you were in Skippy's or The Drive Inn-Matamoros after such a feed, to mention a couple of spots known to those discreet Houstonians and white-wing dove hunters who have been around a while.

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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.*

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