



## History repeats itself

### Romeo and Juliet enjoy their dining experience at Steak House 22.

It was about 30 years ago. It was in Patterson on Route 22, just over the Dutchess County border into Putnam County. It was a warm, comfortable restaurant. It was a French restaurant serving excellent food. Since that time this building has had some other names, but today its name is Steak House 22. It is still warm and comfortable and serves large quantities of great food. But we are getting ahead of ourselves.

On a cool summer evening we took a ride to the Steak House. You first walk into a little hall covered with pictures of a previous restaurant housed there. Through the second door you enter into the bar room. There was a long bar against the left wall. My first impression as we walked in was that the soft lighting over and around the bar gave sparkle to the glasses. It created a clean, fairyland effect. Two young ladies, one bartender and one waitress, were at the far end of the bar conversing. Both of them greeted us and asked if we would like to dine outside. Since it was a little chilly at 6 p.m. we decided we would enjoy a table inside.

There are three rooms. One across from the bar, the largest, has a large stone fireplace. On a snowy, cold winter evening, the roaring fireplace must create a nice glow and warmth. The next room is toward the back, before the entrance to the deck patio. It is bright and small. The third room is a nice size, again bright from the many win-

dows. We were seated at a table for four in a corner and there were five other tables for four, of which two were occupied. The room was very sunny and warm from the setting sun pouring through the windows.

As we scanned our menus, we noticed a separate sheet of paper. Happy Happy Wednesday was the greeting with four entrees. This was the specials for the evening. We kept going back and forth from the Happy Happy Wednesday to the regular menu.

Our waitress took our drink orders. A basket of bread and butter was put on our table and two more tables were occupied. The drinks were brought and I was a little disappointed. My glass was about the size of a juice glass filled with lots of ice. I took about two, three sips and the glass was empty except for the ice. The glass was not a good "on the rocks" choice. Romeo's drink was straight up – he had no problem. On the menu was a sheet filled with fancy straight-up cocktails, so I decided to try the Caribbean Surfer. It was delicious.

It was time to order our appetizers. Romeo chose Breaded Oysters, which were described as plump New England oysters, breaded and deep-fried golden, served with a Bayou tartar sauce. There were about eight oysters, not really plump and not really golden fried. They were smaller in size and a little over-fried. But it didn't stop Romeo from finishing all of them.



# Steak House 22

2693 Route 22, Patterson, NY  
(845) 878-9877

Lunch - Tuesday to Fridays, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Dinner - Tuesdays to Sundays, 5 to 10 p.m.

♥♥♥♥♥ – Food  
♥♥♥♥♥ – Service  
♥♥♥♥♥ – Ambiance  
♥♥♥♥♥ – Value

I decided on stuffed mushroom, and what a fantastic choice I made. There were five medium-sized mushrooms on a bed of lettuce with a sauce trickling through. My first piece, oh, what a taste. Delicious! The stuffing was far superior to any I have ever tasted in stuffed mushrooms. It was light, delicate, had a superb taste, rich in every way. I also thought, five mushrooms? It seemed like a lot, but because of their lightness, it was easy to devour them all. Mmmm. I just sat back and relaxed and digested this superb appetizer.

Our entrees brought wide-eyed wonder. Romeo's Beef Short Ribs were the "House Special." Slow-cooked until tender and falling off the bone, topped with homemade barbecue sauce. The three large, meaty short ribs filled his plate. The large portion of garlic mashed potatoes and a heaping pile of fresh broccoli rounded out this wonderful dish. My entrée, Chicken Gorgonzola, another "House Special," was quite different. Boneless chicken breasts sautéed and topped with fresh spinach and gorgonzola cheese in a sherry cream wine sauce. How different, a fine taste all melding together. My sides were also a huge portion of garlic mashed potatoes and a large amount of fresh broccoli. The mashed potatoes were rich and creamy and the broccoli was cooked perfectly. I finished all of my large portion, but Romeo could not finish his three huge short ribs. In fact, he took the leftovers home – meat, potatoes and vegetable – and had two more meals. The portions are huge and every bit enjoyable. Our compliments to the chef!

We were full, but decided to enjoy some dessert. Dessert is not always easy to pass up, especially if the deserts sound good. Romeo had the "Special Dessert"—Mile Hi Cake, and a mile high it was. Dark chocolate all the way with some whipped cream, a very large portion. Romeo could not finish this delicious dessert. I chose a simpler dessert: A very large cherry turnover, warm, with a big scoop of vanilla ice cream. All freshly baked, a flaky crust, sweet with a little tartness from the cherries and a cool taste from the vanilla ice cream. I did eat all of mine. We both enjoyed the good hot coffee.

It was a lovely evening, and the food was plentiful and prepared to perfection. There is a warmth and charm about the place, and our wonderful waitress Michele was very friendly and added to it all. She was capable in handling all the diners that evening. There were 14 for dinner. We certainly want to return for another special meal, and perhaps for lunch. ♥

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