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RESTAURANT REVIEW: THE MARGARITA AT PINE CREEK

The Margarita at Pine Creek is a wonderful restaurant. Whether you are adventurous or just want a homey meal of feel-good comfort food, the Margarita is the place for you.

You won't find fatty fast food at the Margarita. Chef Eric Viedt offers only healthy, satisfying, gourmet lunches and dinners. One of my absolute favorite selections is the pan-roasted duck breast with butternut squash, roasted figs, and goat cheese. This marvelous entrée is a wonderful combination of sweet and savory flavors. The roasted figs are delightfully sweet and the squash, with a tangy hint of goat cheese in every bite, is the perfect foil for the succulent duck. Another food that tickles the taste buds is the marvelous Marcello Burger—named after the chefs' son. This outrageously juicy beef patty has melted cheddar cheese, sizzling bacon, perfectly grilled onions, and a glob of homemade mayonnaise all on a freshly baked brioche bun. It just doesn't get any better than this!

The Margarita doesn't only make incredible savory dishes, but also a magical array of dreamy desserts, lovingly created each day by Chef Cathy Werle. One such example is the hazelnut brown butter torte. This chocolaty delicacy with its orange marmalade sauce and fresh mint leaf garnish is SO yummy that each bite explodes in your mouth with pure awesomeness!

Another terrific aspect of the Margarita at Pine Creek is the friendly and upbeat service. Each member of the wait staff makes a point of knowing your name, which demonstrates how much they care. While recently demolishing a huge pile of "not-so-angry" crab legs (the chef tamed the spicy heat for me) with relish, my waitress brought me a finger bowl of warm water and an extra napkin. Plus, Chef Eric comes out to meet each of his customers to insure that their needs are being met. This personalized service adds to the pleasure of your dining experience.

The next thing to talk about is the atmosphere. Most nights, a different band plays new songs and well-known favorites. The accompaniment of live music isn't the only aspect of the ambience that you can enjoy while you eat your meal. The lighting is a beautiful mix of colors and artful shapes. While some people prefer the modern trend of placing lots of tables in a big one-room restaurant, I think this is too loud and public which ruins the atmosphere. The Margarita has old fashioned seating arrangements in small, somewhat enclosed areas within different rooms of the building. You can choose to have a quiet, more intimate setting or you can go to the bar or the outdoor patio for a more lively experience.

The last piece of this delicious puzzle is pricing. Some people may think that the Margarita prices are a little high. For example the three course meal is \$35 while the five course menu is \$42. That may seem expensive, but considering that you get seasonal,

locally farmed food on a super creative, ever-changing menu, it is definitely worth the price.

To conclude this review, the Margarita at Pine Creek is the absolute best restaurant ever. Sadly, words cannot adequately describe the uber-awsomeness of the food, service, ambience and prices of this prized treasure of our community.

The Margarita at Pine Creek 7150 Pine Creek Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80919
<http://coloradoeats.com/margarita/> For reservations call: 719.598.8667