

Capital Grille is classic New York steak house

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

David Jannelle, general manager of The Capital Grille in Somerset Collection, North, likens his restaurant to a Brooks Brothers suit.

"It's a classic New York-style steakhouse (with an upscale cocktail lounge, large, well-preserved wine list offering a lot of variety, the ability to have your favorite sherry, cognac or port after dinner with a fine cigar," Jannelle said.

"It's nothing new. It's nothing that hasn't been under the sun for awhile, but we just maybe refined it a little bit. Oh, and actually, we have great service."

Jannelle moved to Troy from Boston to run The Capital Grille, which also has locations in Boston, Providence, R.I., and Washington, D.C. The decision to open a restaurant here was based on "extensive market research."

"We have a real estate division that's always trying to secure sites that are appropriate for our concept. It was a combination of discussing different Midwest sites for us and the fact that the Forbes' had visited Capital Grille's back east. So we are sort of a joint effort of us wanting to be here and them wanting us here," Jannelle said.

The Capital Grille offers a vast menu for an upscale restaurant. Appetizers for lunch and dinner range from linguini clams on a half shell (\$9.95) to Beluga caviar (\$39.95). The restaurant has three different soups: clam chowder (\$3.75, \$4.25), Capital Grille Pen Stoup (\$3.25, \$3.75), and crock of French onion soup (\$4.50).

There are two different categories of salads — appetizer salads such as beefsteak tomato and onion (\$5.25) and spinach salad with warm bacon dressing (\$4.75), and luncheon salad entrees like fresh fruit salad (\$8.95) and grilled tenderloin Caesar salad (\$15.95). The luncheon appetizer salads are also offered on the dinner menu.

The Capital Grille's luncheon entrees feature mostly steaks and seafoods, for example, tenderloin steak kabob (\$11.95), peppered filet hash (\$10.95), linguini with shrimp and lobster (\$12.95), and fresh-grilled rainbow trout (\$10.95). Other dishes include sauteed provini calves liver with onion and bacon (\$9.75), grille burger (\$7.95-\$8.95), and fresh turkey breast

(\$19.95) and The Grille's Signature Veal Chop (\$26.95) are served exclusively during dinner.

Lunch and dinner meals can be complemented with a variety of potatoes like a one-pound baked potato (\$3.25) or cottage fries and onion strings (\$4.50), and vegetables ranging from seasonal fresh vegetables (\$4.25) to roasted seasonal mushrooms (\$8.95). "Undoubtedly we're known as a New York-style steakhouse because we dry age our two different cuts of our beef — our sirloin and our porterhouse. Our porterhouse more than anything else is our signature steak," Jannelle said.

The Capital Grille
Where: Somerset Collection, North, 2800 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy.
Hours: Lunch is served daily from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., with dinner from 5-10 p.m. on Sundays-Thursdays, and 5-11 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays.
Credit cards: All major credit cards are accepted.
Amenities: Complimentary valet parking with restaurant validation. Portable phones are also available.
Call: (510) 649-5300.

club sandwich with homemade chips (\$8.95).

The dinner grilles, roasts and seafoods lists items that are also found on the luncheon menu like dry-aged sirloin steak (\$19.95 lunch, \$21.95 and \$26.95 dinner), spit-roasted chicken (\$9.95 lunch, and \$15.95 dinner), fresh grilled swordfish (\$14.95 lunch, and \$21.95 dinner), fresh grilled Norwegian salmon (\$13.95 lunch and \$19.95 dinner), and double-cut lamb chops (\$16.95 lunch and \$25.95 dinner).

Among the items on the dessert menu are fresh strawberries in cream with brown sugar (\$3.95), white chocolate mousse (\$4.95), tiramisu (\$5.75), and flourless tobler chocolate espresso cake (\$5.95).

Be warned before calling for reservations: sometimes it can take up to one to two weeks to catch the phone when it's not busy. Upon hearing this, Jannelle let out a hearty laugh.

"We've been very busy since we've opened. The reception to the greater Detroit market has been more than we anticipated. We've been very, very fortunate to see a lot of great folks come in and hopefully we're making them all happy and generating a loyal and happy group of guests."



PHOTO BY BILL HANSEN

New restaurant: David Jannelle of the Capital Grill.

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