

Westland eatery specializes in barbecued ribs, family atmosphere

BY MARY QUINLEY
CORRESPONDENT

Once or twice a week, Art Woodruff shows up at Alexander the Great for a meal. Some days, he eats alone. Other times, he shares lunch or dinner with a family member, friend or business client.

"I feel comfortable at Alexander's," said Woodruff of Westland, who has frequented the eatery for more than two decades. He enjoys the food and the friendly, family-style atmosphere.

"The ribs and the broasted chicken are my favorites," said Woodruff, who has sampled just about everything on the menu including the "awesome" corned beef sandwiches.

In 1977, Alexander the Great opened in Westland. This year marks the restaurant's 25th year in business. "We specialize in barbecued ribs," said Pauline Tomovski, who is a co-owner with her husband, Tom. The ribs, the most popular menu item, are trimmed, seasoned, cooked on a rotisserie pit and then served with a "secret" sauce.

Rib dinners come with coleslaw or salad, choice of potato and garlic bread. Portions are plentiful. Choose either a whole slab for two (\$18.95), a whole slab for one (\$16.95), a half slab (\$13.95) or a snack size of five bones (\$8.95).

Be sure to check local newspapers for coupons that offer rib dinners for two people for \$14.95.

Combinations of barbecued ribs and chicken and/or shrimp are available. Depending on the combo, prices are either \$14.95 or \$15.95.

The Monday-through-Friday lunch crowd has an option to order from a special menu between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

"People are surprised at how much food there is," said Tomovski, who updates the items on the lunch menu every few months.

A Reuben Grill, Chicken Tender Salad, Mostaccioli and Tuna Pasta are currently featured for \$4.95. The \$6.95 lunch specials are served with potatoes, coleslaw and garlic bread. Some of the choices are Fish and Chips, the Half Broasted Chicken and the BBQ Rib Snack.

Appetizers include Shrimp Cocktail, Wingdings, Fried Pickles and Onion Rings. There are a variety of salads, several soup choices and a Kids' Classics menu for the 10 and under customers.

Smiley Fries are one of the newest items on the menu. The round, smiley-faced fried potatoes are a hit



PHOTOS BY TOM HAMLEY/OBSERVER

Tom Tomovski, owner of Alexander the Great in Westland offers many dishes, including barbecue ribs, fish and chips, barbecue chicken, mostaccioli, broiled orange roughy, broasted chicken and reuben sandwiches.



Barbecue ribs at Alexander the Great in Westland.

with the kids, said Tomovski.

A variety of seafood entrees, including Icelandic Cod, Broasted Shrimp, Broiled Cod and Orange Roughy, are available anytime. Meat lovers will find strip and rib eye steaks.

The Italian dishes of veal or chicken parmigiana, mostaccioli and spaghetti are accompanied by salad and garlic bread.

All menu items are available for take-out. Large orders for company functions, home gatherings or holiday events are welcome.

'The customer is the most important thing. We feel that we provide that (at home) atmosphere.'

Pauline Tomovski
co-owner, Alexander the Great

Looking for a gift idea for a special couple? Or perhaps you and your significant other need an evening out. Then consider Alexander's Moviegoers Special for \$29.95.

The package provides dinner and a movie for two people.

Alexander's wait staff is taught to look at the customer's table and anticipate what the customer needs before he or she asks for it.

"The customer is the most important thing," said Tomovski. It's like entertaining at home, she said. "We

feel that we provide that (at home) atmosphere."

Employee turnover is low. The reason for this, said Tomovski, is probably because she and her husband treat their employees like family.

When the couple contemplated a name for their eatery they wanted to make reference to Tom's heritage in the Macedonia region.

So, they chose Alexander the Great, naming the restaurant after a conqueror that ruled as king of Macedonia more than three centuries B.C.

"We wanted to conquer the metro Detroit area appetites for barbecued ribs," said Tomovski.

Owning a restaurant came naturally to Tomovski. Her family has been involved in either the bakery or restaurant business. And, she said, her husband is a people person who likes to entertain. "What better place than a restaurant (for both of us) to work?"

The right mix of excellent food, sin-



Fruit cobbler a la mode, homemade rice pudding and strawberry daiquiri are after-dinner pleasures at Alexander the Great in Westland.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

Location: 34733 Warren, Westland;
(734) 326-5410

Hours: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon to 10 p.m. Sunday

Menu: Barbecued ribs are the house specialty. Barbecued combos include chicken and shrimp. Appetizers, salads, soups, sandwiches, broasted chicken, seafood, steaks, meals for kids and daily luncheon specials are also featured. A full bar selection is available.

Special package: Moviegoers Special, \$29.95 includes dinner and movie for two

Reservations: Not necessary

cere service and a lot of hard work, said Tomovski, is the key to a quarter century of their success.

Mary Quinley is a Livonia resident and writes about food and travel for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. You can reach her at MQuinley@aol.com.

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