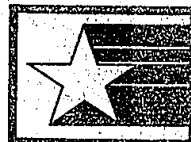


Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



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Mealtime bargain is Sunday brunch

By Ethel Simmons
staff writer

ONE OF THE BEST bargains around when it comes to restaurant meals is Sunday brunch, that big glorious feast often combining breakfast favorites with luncheon specialties, drinks and desserts.

Most restaurants offer brunch buffet-style, where you can serve yourself and go back for more. Usually the plates you fill with fresh fruit, breads, salad and side dishes, cold and hot entrees amply satisfy your appetite the first time around.

But if there's something you especially like, you can always take seconds. People generally manage to save room for a dessert or two — perhaps three, if the sweets are small.

A leisurely brunch starts out with fruit juice, or a cocktail — perhaps a champagne cocktail, a champagne split, a cold cut that blends champagne with sparkling burgundy, a mimosa (champagne with orange juice), or bloody mary.

BRUNCH DEVOTEES rate the spread according to its complexity, as well as taste. A brunch leaning heavily on sausage, scrambled eggs, hash browns, muffins and toast can best be described as basic. A chef making omelets to order, or pancakes as you like them (with or without blueberries) upgrades the brunch, as does a chef carving a ham or roast beef.

Dishes in delicate cream sauces can make a scrumptious difference. People who love bagels, cream cheese and lox don't consider it a real brunch or even Sunday without these partners.

Smoked fish should be on the menu, and eggs benedict and blintzes topped with berries are a must for a goodly spread.

There are the real gourmet dishes, too — things like little chops that you eat with your fingers, for example. Besides the food, other touches are important. An extra attraction like entertainment turns the brunch into a party.

Here are just a few of the places where Sunday brunch is served. Most require reservations.

• **MICHIGAN INN**, 16400 J.L. Hudson Drive, Southfield. Phone 559-6500. The hotel's new "1920s Big City Brunch" features Doug Jacobs and the Red Garter Band. At a bandstand, com-

table talk

plete with a cardboard cutout of an old-time automobile, Jacobs and his gang plays nostalgic tunes. The hotel's Coffee Garden, plus the lobby area, is used for the brunch setting, which includes a lavish buffet. Baskets of fruits and vegetables surround the buffet table, to resemble a city-street market. Soup, marinated salad, cold shrimp, bagels and lox, pate, blintzes, crepes, eggs, carved ham and roast beef are among the multitude of dishes. Hours 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Prices \$9.95 for adults, \$7.95 for senior citizens and \$5.25 for children under 12.

• **HOTEL ST. REGIS**, 3071 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Phone 873-3000. New "English Hunt Club Sunday Brunch" in European hotel atmosphere offers omelets to order, a rotating menu of egg dishes including Eggs Sardou and Eggs Florentine, Steamship Round of Beef and English breakfast specialties. The latter includes kedgeree (rice with seafood), Scott's porridge (oatmeal) with cinnamon, brown sugar and butter, and Apperled herring. Music by George Nicola at the piano drifts into the intimate rooms where diners are seated. Following brunch, complimentary stirrup cups of mulled wine are served after noon. Hours 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Prices \$8.95 for adults, children under 12 free.

• **WESTWORLD**, 7300 N. Merriam, Westland. Phone 422-3440. Upstairs banquet rooms at family recreation center (formerly Hawthorn Valley Country Club) are where the brunch is served. Offer buffet choice of 10 hot entrees, and there's also a salad and soup table and a dessert table. Dishes include carved beef and ham, seafood, Western eggs (omelet with green pepper and onion), scrambled eggs, bacon, Polish sausage, sauerkraut, corn bread, fried potatoes, mashed potatoes, vegetables and gravy. The menu varies weekly with such selections as spinach pie. Westworld has been offering brunch since April and serves about 200 persons each Sunday. Hours 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Prices \$6.95 for adults, \$4.95 for children 12 and under.

• **THE RHINOCEROS**, 265 Rodeo at Franklin, Detroit. Phone 259-2208. Restaurant with New York etc-

gance backdrops this brunch, which offers one of six entrees, served from the menu. Oeufs Banville (poached eggs in artichokes and hollandaise), smoked salmon omelet with sour cream and potatoes lyonnaise, and pecan crepes with banana and lemon cream and maple sugar are some choices. Other selections feature chicken ka-bobs, American steak and lemon sole. Hours 11:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Fresh fruit and breads and one cocktail are included for \$8.95, with unlimited cocktails \$12.95.

• **THE INCREDIBLE EDIBLES** Food and Spirits, 31231 Southfield north of 13 Mile, Beverly Hills. Informal shopping-center restaurant has 40-foot-long buffet table for Sunday brunch. Chef makes omelets. Diners also may nibble on wing dings, riblets (barbecue ribs), sausage, bacon, ham, scrambled eggs, bagels, toast, English muffins and pastry. Fresh fruit juices are served from a watermelon. Hours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Prices \$4.95 for adults, \$3 for children under 12.

• **HOLIDAY INN** — Livonia West, Six Mile and I-75. Phone 464-1300. Free champagne is served from noon to 2 p.m. along with brunch at this striking contemporary-exterior inn. The buffet is set in the hotel's area and diners bring their filled platters to the French Colony or Plantation Cafe dining rooms for seating. The elaborate buffet is emphasized with an ice sculpture. Among dishes are eggs benedict, seafood newburg, beef tips, a side of beef and sliced ham. Hours 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Prices \$7.95 for adults, \$5.95 for senior citizens; \$3.95 for children under 12.

• **ALDEN'S ALLEY**, 212 S. Main, Royal Oak. Phone 545-5000. Oysters; shrimp, herring, mussels, salmon and



Doug Jacobs on banjo, and the rest of the Red Garter Band — including Jack Dalton on guitar

and vocals — entertains at the Michigan Inn's "1920s Big City Brunch."

clams are some of the delights at the seafood bar. A chef cuts roast rib eye of beef and cooks omelets to order, at the buffet table. Belgian waffles and cheese blintzes are more buffet-table offerings. There's a separate fruit and dessert table. Diners may be seated in a semi-outdoor setting when cold weather eliminates tables outside the restaurant. Hours 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Prices \$8.95 for adults, \$4.95 for children under 12.

• **KINGSLEY INN**, 1475 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. Phone 644-1400. Brunch served in the inn's elegant dining rooms has been around a long time. Crepes, salads, bagels and cream cheese, chicken, cabbage rolls, beef stroganoff and fish dishes are on the menu. The Kingsley has its own bake house.

Homemade peach cobbler and French pastries. Because the Kingsley runs chartered buses to all Lions and Michigan Panthers home games at the stadium, many sports fans turn out for brunch. Hours 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Prices \$7.35 for adults, \$4.95 for ages 2-5.

• **TOPINKA'S COUNTRY HOUSE**, 24010 W. 7 Mile Road at Telegraph Road, Detroit. Phone 531-9000. The champagne brunch includes a free glass of champagne. A full table of fresh fruits is available. Salads, grapes and juices are served. Cold fish featured are four kinds of herring and three kinds of sardines. There are cakes too numerous to mention. On the hot table are beef stir fry, turkey a la king, a newburg dish or lobster bisque, potato pancakes, fried chicken, scrambled eggs and sausage. Hours 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Prices \$7.95 for adults, \$5.95 for children under 10.

• **THE MEATING PLACE**, 4105 Orchard Lake Road, Orchard Lake. New Sunday brunch buffet. Its gourmet touches. Salads, cheeses, fresh fruit, soup du jour, ham, sausage, eggs, seafood, chicken, chicken livers, salmon, lox, pastries and specialty breads make up the buffet menu. Hours noon to 3 p.m. Prices \$7.95 for adults, \$4.95 for children.

• **DEARBORN INN**, across from Greenfield Village, Dearborn. Phone 271-2700. The comfortable inn serves brunch in its Early American Room. Eggs benedict, cheese omelets, codfish balls with white cream sauce, chicken a la king in a crisp pastry shell, bacon and sausage links, chicken livers, beef and kidney stew and small chubs (fish) may be found on the menu. Hours 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Prices \$5.50 for adults, \$5.50 for children under 12. The Dearborn Inn does not take reservations for brunch.

• **BIG BOY**, 45250 Ford Road, Canton. Phone 459-5770. Breakfast buffet features scrambled eggs, corned beef hash, bacon, sausage, Southern gravy and biscuits, pancakes, waffles, fruit. Its gourmet touches. Salads, cheeses, fresh fruit, soup du jour, ham, sausage, eggs, seafood, chicken, chicken livers, salmon, lox, pastries and specialty breads make up the buffet menu. Hours noon to 3 p.m. Prices \$7.95 for adults, \$4.95 for children.

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