

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100

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Mealtimes 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 start with fresh fruit, breads, salad and side dishes, cold and hot entrees simply satisfy your appetite the first time round.

But, if there's something you especially like, you can always ask for 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 duck 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. You can have omelets to order, or pancakes (you like them with or without blueberries) upgrade 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 regular restaurant 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 play 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. Soups, marinated salad, cold shrimp, bagels and lox, pate, blintzes, crepes, eggs, carved ham and roast beef are among the many kinds of dishes. Hours 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Prices \$9.95 for adults, \$7.95 for senior citizens and \$5.35 for children under 12.

• HOTEL ST. REGIS, 3071 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Phone 678-3000. "English Hunt Club Sunday Brunch" in European hotel atmosphere offers omelets to order, a rotating menu of egg dishes including Eggs Benedict, Eggs Florentine, Steamship Round of Beef and English breakfast specialties. The latter includes kedgeree (rice with seafood), Scotch porridge (oatmeal with clams), brown sugar and butter), and kippered herring. Music by George Nichols 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, \$7.95 for senior citizens and \$5.35 for children under 12.

• HOLIDAY INN — Livonia West, Six Miles, I-275. Phone 644-1300. Free champagne is served from noon to 2 p.m. along with brunch at this striking contemporary-exterior inn. The buffet is served in the dining area and diners enjoy their filled plates at the French Colony or Plantation Cafe dining room for sealing. The elaborate buffet is embellished with an ice sculpture. Among dishes are eggs benedict, seafood newburg, beef tips, a side of beef and alfredo ham. Hours 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Prices \$8.95 for adults, \$7.95 for senior citizens; \$3.95 for children under 12.

• ALDEN'S ALLEY, 312 S. Main, Royal Oak. Phone 645-5000. Salmon and shrimp, herring, mussels, oysters and clams. 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 Rieppell at Franklin, Detroit. Phone 259-2208. Restaurant with New York ele-

gance backdrops this brunch, which offers one of six entrees, served from the menu. Omele Banville (pancakes eggs in artichokes and hollandaise), smoked salmon omelet with sour cream and potato lycopine, and pecan crepes with bananas and lemon cream and maple sugar are some choices. Other selections feature chicken kabobs, 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 INN INNEDIBLE EDIBLES, French & Spirits, 31231 Southfield north of 13 Mile, in Beverly Hills. Informal shopping center houses a 10-foot-long buffet table for Sunday brunch. Chef makes omelets. Diners may also nibble on wing dishes, ribs (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.

• KINGSLEY INN, 1475 2 Woodard, Bloomfield Hills. Phone 644-1400. Breakfast served in the inn's elegant dining rooms has been around a long time. Creamy salads, bagels and cream cheese, chicken, cabbage rolls, beef stroganoff and fish dishes are on the menu. The Kingsley has its own baked beans, peach cobbler and French pastries. Because the Kingsley runs chartered buses to all Lions and Michigan Panthers home games at the Silverdome, many sports fans turn out for brunch. Hours 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• DEARBORN INN, across from Greenfield Village, Dearborn. Phone 271-2700. The comfortable inn serves brunch in its Early American Room.

Diners may be seated in a free place, a chair or a booth. A sample of fresh fruits is available. Salads 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.

• TOPINKA'S COUNTRY HOUSE, 2401 W. 7 Mile Road at Telegraph Road, Detroit. Phone 531-9009. The campagnie brunch includes a free place, a chair or a booth. A sample of fresh fruits is available. Salads 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 begins at 10 a.m. Its gourmet touches. Salads, cheeses, fresh fruit, soups 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.

• 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 Sunday brunch begins at 10 a.m.

is available every day. Sundays it's served from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and priced at \$3.99 for adults, \$1.99 for children under 12. Children under 5 are free with one adult order for the buffet. Many other Big Boy restaurants also serve Sunday brunch.



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."

Prices \$7.95 for adults, \$4.95 for ages 2-5.

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