

**a counting for taste**  
by D. Gustibus

# Some extra touches make Golden Mushroom special

Your traveling taster visits area eateries and rates them on a 100-point scale. Up to 30 points are awarded for ambience, which includes general atmosphere and service, 55 points for food, and 15 points for price/value rating. A total count of 55 points or less indicates a restaurant is not recommended; 56-74 points signify from passing to good; 75-89 points designate very good with some extraordinary features; and 90-100 points show that a very special dining experience awaits you.

**GOLDEN MUSHROOM**, 16100 W. 10 Mile, Southfield (559-4230), is a popular dining spot. The tables, though somewhat crowded, are very attractively appointed. We did encounter a dirty glass and a dirty spoon, but on the whole the restaurant is classy and stylish. Not so classy, however, was the treatment when we arrived for our 8 p.m. Saturday reservation. We were advised that there would be about a 10-minute wait so we went downstairs to the bar area, which was drafty and cold. We were still waiting 35 minutes later when we noticed that another group of four, who had arrived after us, was being seated. We complained and were seated immediately; not a very professional way to handle the reservations and seating of customers. Nevertheless, reservations are a must. **GENERAL ATMOSPHERE** — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 10.

Our waitress was delightful. She was exceptionally pleasant and informative about the menu items, their preparation and origins. When asked, she was able to explain why New Zealand venison was served in place of Michigan (New Zealand is more tender). Although her knowledge and spirit

were excellent, the service was a bit uneven, and it took almost 30 minutes for our bread to arrive. **SERVICE** — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 12.

For appetizers, we sampled two daily specials and two regular items. Rich and flavorful, the Golden Mushroom soup is a must. The crab and artichoke gratinee, served in a shell, was also quite tasty. The two daily specials, at \$8.50 and \$9 were not appealing. The stone crabs were well presented but bland. The black and white truffle over angel hair pasta was so creamy that we could hardly taste the truffles. The rolls were common and unappealing. **DRINKS, APPETIZERS AND BREAD** — 10 points maximum. Points awarded — 8.

A choice of Caesar or garden salad comes with the meal. The Caesar salad had little garlic flavor and no anchovies, but was good nonetheless. Although the vegetables were fresh and crisp, the dressing on the garden salad was too oily. **SALAD** — 5 points maximum. Points awarded — 3.

The New Zealand venison, served in port wine sauce, with glazed chestnuts, wild rice, persimmons and apples — a daily special at \$19.95 — was delicious. The tender venison blended perfectly with the garnish complements. The lamb chops at \$21.50, also rich in flavor and cooked just as ordered, were served with an onion chutney, which added nicely to the dish. The most disappointing dish of the evening was the special red snapper with mushroom sauce at \$19.95. The sauce was too heavy, and the snapper was tough and too fishy. In contrast, the

half Dover sole had a delicate, appealing flavor. **ENTREE, VEGETABLES AND GARNISHES** — 30 points maximum. Points awarded — 27.

No meal is complete without a sweet (or two), and the banana and chocolate mousse pie in meringue crust filled the bill perfectly. The bananas kept the mousse from overwhelming the meringue. A couple at a nearby table raved over the Mozart walnut brownie cake with buttercream frosting. While there was too much chocolate for our taste, others might find it just right. **DESSERT AND COFFEE** — 10 points maximum. Points awarded — 9.

A nice touch at the Golden Mushroom is the serving of complimentary appetizers (capon liver mousse and salmon on cucumbers) at the start of the meal and petit fours with the check (perhaps to "sweeten" it). However, at \$40 per couple, we felt the meal should have been perfect throughout. **PRICE/VALUE** — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 12.

**A COUNTING FOR TASTE** — 100 points maximum. Total points awarded: 81. Golden Mushroom is a good choice for a special night. The knowledgeable staff can help guide you to some very special dishes.

D. Gustibus welcomes your reactions, comments and suggestions of favorite restaurants in the Observer & Eccentricist community. Write to D. Gustibus in care of Observer & Eccentricist, Entertainment Department, P.O. Box 503, Birmingham 48012.

## upcoming things to do

Continued from Preceding Page

### • 'THE NUTCRACKER'

Northern Ballet Theater will present the holiday classic "The Nutcracker" at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22, at Plymouth-Salem High School Auditorium in Plymouth. The symphony, with conductor Francesco Di Biasi, will accompany the dancers of Northern Ballet Theater under the artistic direction of Michelle Wolfe. All seats are reserved. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children under 12 years of age

and \$5 for senior citizens. Tickets are available at Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia; Northern Ballet Theater, 331 N. Main, Plymouth, and Village Sweets 'n' Treats, 124 N. Center, Northville. For more information call 455-7870.

### • AT HIGHICKER

Jerry Lee Lewis will perform Sunday, Dec. 22, at the Highickier Saloon in Pontiac. The rock star was originally scheduled to appear Sunday, Dec. 1. Other performers slated to entertain in the series of WCXI-

hosted concerts at the saloon include Steve Warner/Johnny Lee, Jan. 12; Tammy Wynette, Feb. 23; and John Anderson/the Whites, March 23. Tickets are available by calling 334-5550.

### • CASTING CALL

Auditions for the Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford production of "Extremities" will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, and 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16, at the theater in Redford. For further information, call 425-5942 after 5 p.m.

**KEEGO TWIN CINEMA**  
On Orchard Lake Road at Chas Lake Rd.  
114 Miles W. of Telegraph • 982-1900

**ALL SEATS 1<sup>st</sup> SUN-THURS**

**I. TO LIVE AND DIE IN L.A. (R)**  
**II. TRANSYLVANIA-6500 (PG)**

**good tastes**  
Enjoy the many good tastes of this  
Mon Jin Lau

Sizzling Rice Soup • Mongolian Beef •  
Peanut Chicken • Moo Shu Pork • Hunan Shrimp  
Share our good tastes with a friend

**MON JIN LAU**  
Manjanszechuan • Hunan • Cantonese  
Exotic Spices  
E. Maple Rd. at Stephenson Hwy. Troy  
689-7337

**SHOWCASE CINEMAS**

**PONTIAC 1-2-3-4-5**  
STARTS FRIDAY  
**CLUE**  
THE JEWEL OF THE NILE  
SPIES LIKE US  
KING SOLOMON'S MINES  
BACK TO THE FUTURE

**PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10**  
STARTS MONDAY  
**WHITE NIGHTS**  
ROCKY IV  
YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES  
ONE MAGIC CHRISTMAS  
JAGGED EDGE

**TARGET**  
STARTS FRIDAY  
**SANTA CLAUS**  
THE MOVIE  
A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET 2  
RAINBOW BRIDE

**ON THE TOWN**

**SUNDAY BRUNCH BUFFET**  
Voted #1 by Detroit's two city magazines

And only \$8.95 Children 7 and under \$4.95  
Served from 10 to 2 p.m.

**Kingsley Inn**  
WOODWARD AT LONG LAKE AVENUE  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS • 351-1101

The right setting for New Year's

Reservations 5pm to 8pm (dinner from menu)  
or  
New Year's seating 10pm  
live music, dancing, bottles of champagne  
7 course meal  
Lobster bisque  
Shrimp and crabmeat cocktail  
Caesar salad  
Choice of Beef Wellington or Stuffed Sole  
Lemon Sorbet  
Pastilles  
Assorted candy minis  
\$49.95 per person  
Reservations accepted at 642-2430  
3400 Telegraph (north of 12 Mile, next to Jacques restaurant)

**JOVAN**  
RESTAURANT  
PIANO BAR

**Machus Sly Fox**

Proudly Presents

a Theatregoer's Special

**COMPLETE DINNER AND THEATRE PACKAGE FOR TWO, JUST \$49.95**

Price includes Dinner and Theater Tickets to "Snoopy" playing at the Birmingham Theater December 6 - January 5

**Machus Sly Fox**

Call 642-6900 for Reservations Now  
725 South Hunter Blvd., Birmingham

**THE ARISTOCRAT RESTAURANT**

4343 ORCHARD LAKE RD.  
PINE LAKE MALL  
851-5540

Savor A Special New Year's Eve Dining Experience  
**'ENTERTAINMENT' 'DANCING' 'LARGE SCREEN T.V.'**

**GALA NEW YEAR'S BUFFET**

Featuring —  
Tossed Salad, Rolls and Butter, Stuffed Shrimp, Pancit Canton, Steak Kow, Bulgogi, Alaskan King Crab, Prime Rib Au Jus, Braised Chicken, Fried Rice, Redskin Potato, Honey Glazed Carrots and Elaborate Dessert and Appetizer Table.  
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AFTER 1200 MIDNIGHT

**FIRST SEATING** 6:30 P.M.  
138<sup>th</sup> per person

**SECOND SEATING** 8:30 P.M.  
139<sup>th</sup> per person

**THIRD SEATING** 10:30 P.M.  
143<sup>th</sup> per person

**FOURTH SEATING** 11:30 P.M.  
122<sup>nd</sup> per person  
Includes Continental

\*INCLUDES PARTY FAVOR, NOISE MAKERS & CHAMPAGNE AT MIDNIGHT.  
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 851-5540

**Christmas To Go From The Troy Hilton**

This Christmas, let the Troy Hilton prepare your holiday feast. Select any of the following entrees and pick it up at your select time, fully cooked and ready to serve!

<b>#1 TURKEY TO-GO</b> 12-14 lb. Roast Turkey Ole-Fusion Dressing Mashed Potatoes Green Bean Casserole Gravy and Cranberry Sauce \$38.95 Serves 8-10	<b>#2 PRIME RIB TO-GO</b> 20-22 lb. Prime Rib 16 Special Baked Potatoes Green Bean Casserole Honey-Radish Sauce \$175 Serves 16-18	<b>#3 1/2 PRIME RIB TO-GO</b> 10-11 lb. Prime Rib 8 Special Baked Potatoes Green Bean Casserole Honey-Radish Sauce \$90 Serves 8-10	<b>#4 BAKED HAM TO-GO</b> 16-20 lb. Baked Bone-In Ham Honey-Glazed Yams Green Bean Casserole Honey-Radish Sauce \$65 Serves 10-12
---	--	---	---

All orders must be placed & prepaid by Friday, Dec. 20 • For More Information Call 583-9000  
The Haymarket Restaurant will also be serving Christmas Brunch, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Reservations Recommended

**Troy Hilton Inn**  
1455 Stephenson Hwy. Troy, Michigan 48064 583-9000

Come celebrate with us!

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

**WOW!**

5 BANDS + "FOR ONLY \$30"

Wow! Our seventh New Year's Eve special...  
Wow! The Haymarket Restaurant...  
Wow! The Haymarket Restaurant...  
Wow! The Haymarket Restaurant...

**HYATT REGENCY DEARBORN**  
593-1936