

Plymouth Landing offers good value

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; 55-74 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.

PLYMOUTH LANDING, 340 Main, Plymouth (455-8700), is located in a turn-of-the-century factory building. The restaurant decor remains true to the 1890s, with stained glass, brick walls and lighting that suits the Victorian period. Plymouth Landing has a cozy feeling, although paper placemats detract a bit. Since our table was not ready for our 5 p.m. reservation, we had a drink at the bar. The bar area, located within a partitioned portion of the dining room, is small but adequate. The few dinner booths in this location are not as quiet as tables and booths in the main dining rooms. Our table was ready by 5:30, but we have begun to expect (but not accept) delays in reservation seating. **GENERAL ATMOSPHERE** — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 11.

When she was at our table, the waitress was pleasant and helpful, but service overall was slow and disappointing. Our meal took more than two hours, and we often had to ask the waitress for water and other needs. At first it seemed a problem of too few waitresses but even as the restaurant became less crowded, our service did not improve. **SERVICE** — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 9.

The drinks were strong and reasonably priced,

but the high point of the meal was the hot hors d'oeuvres for two. Clams casino, oysters Rockefeller, smelt, crab legs, scallops and more were included in abundance in this outstanding appetizer. At \$2.95, this was a bargain of delicious seafood, well worth the price. The bread and rolls were ordinary. **DRINKS, APPETIZERS AND BREAD** — 10 points maximum. Points awarded 10.

After such a nice beginning, the salad was a let-down. Although the vegetables were fresh, the house-dill dressing did not have much dill taste. **SALAD** — 5 points maximum. Points awarded — 3.

The Veal Picante at \$9.95 was tender and full of flavor. The breaded scallops were very good and quite reasonable at \$10.95. The fresh salmon special at \$13.95 was juicy but without any real zest. Oddly enough, everyone's redskin potatoes were very undercooked. In all, the entrees were better than average, but they were unimaginative and more bland than we would have wished. **ENTREE, VEGETABLES AND GARNISHES** — 30 points maximum. Points awarded — 24.

Although the dessert selection was somewhat limited, the two cheesecakes we tried were both

good. The pumpkin cheesecake was especially well flavored, with the pumpkin taste not overpowered by the cheese. The marble cheesecake was extremely sweet and a quite a bit heavier. **DESSERT AND COFFEE** — 10 points maximum. Points awarded — 7.

At \$47 per couple for a meal which included hors d'oeuvres, salad and soup, you get a lot for your money at the Plymouth Landing. Although our hors d'oeuvres were an unbelievable value, the rest of the dishes were also quite reasonably priced. **PRICE/VALUE** — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 13.

A COUNTING FOR TASTE — 100 points maximum. Total points awarded: 77. If you enjoy food that is prepared simply, the Plymouth Landing is a very nice place to dock.

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



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