



Torey's Restaurant and Bar

Reviewed by Lisa M. Bolt Simons

Tucked in the corner of Bridge Street Center in Owatonna is Torey's Restaurant and Bar, co-owned by chef Torey, who has been crafting meals for guests since 2001.

Three friends and I spent a Friday evening here. The hostess showed us to a booth in the bar area with burgundy walls and small pool-hall lights. The L-shaped restaurant surrounds the bar; however, large pane windows, etched with images of the artwork that hangs on the walls, help separate the bar from the dining area. The golf artwork made it feel like an upscale sports bar, a place for relaxation and casual conversation. We would've felt comfortable dressed in jeans or business suits.

Our server quickly arrived and kept up her amiable and efficient service the entire time. Marie had a Michelob, I relished Hogue Gewurztraminer, Connie enjoyed her I.Q. Reisling and Charleen had a "vat" (a large glass) of Stella beer.

We started our meal with two appetizers. First, we tried the spinach dip with sliced bread. Two of us thought it tasted delicious. The parmesan added the right amount of flavor. The creamy dip paired well with the warm French dinner rolls, sliced, crusty on the outside and soft in the middle. However, another said it needed more garlic to suit her tastes. Then we sampled egg rolls with a sweet and sour sauce. The typical cabbage and veggies filled the crispy shell. Although tasty, they were nothing unique.

Connie and I were pleased with our side salads. The purple and green leafy lettuce wasn't wilting or brown, and it tasted garden fresh. The other two ladies thought their Caesar salads were OK. They would have been tastier with less dressing and more anchovy and pepper.

Connie had the salmon with Hollandaise. "Not many restaurants do salmon well," she said. "But this is very good." She said it didn't have a watery fish flavor like she's had in other restaurants and it was well presented.

Marie had the half-size portion (a great offering for those who want less entrée) of the baked pasta with meatballs that she enjoyed.

Charleen dined on poulet asiago and thought the chicken was "excellent." The tender chicken had a seasoned, crunchy coating. She enjoyed this opposing texture.

She also thought the cheese sauce was rich in flavor.

I ordered the petite sirloin medium rare for \$9 and added Oscar asparagus, crab meat and Hollandaise. The crabmeat tasted fishy, so I asked for another opinion. Charleen tasted it and then chose not to eat it because she thought it tasted like it had been scraped off the bottom of the sea.

After removing that, I savored the tender sirloin. The knife sliced right through the perfectly pink meat and the Hollandaise was steaming hot. The asparagus, though delicious, cost extra, something I wish I knew when I ordered. (My \$9 steak turned into \$18 after the Oscar, veggie and salad.)

Dessert was crème brulee and Oreo Bash. The crème brulee was excellent – crisp, sugary crust with its creamy custard filling. The Oreo Bash was also delightful: mousse-ish with layers and swirls of chocolate and cookies.

Despite the minor setbacks, all of us decided that we would return to Torey's again and recommend it to others. Torey's offers a variety of fare: salads, chicken, beef, pork, seafood and "Not Just Pasta." Prices range from the \$7 ala carte House Burger to the \$38 Classic Surf and Turf.

Torey's Restaurant and Bar
685 W. Bridge St., Owatonna
507.455.9260
www.toreys.net

Torey's leftover appeal
My meal was almost as delicious the next day. All it needed was fresh Hollandaise. The dessert was also tasty the next day.







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Richard's Restaurant & Pub
408 South 3rd Street
St. Peter, MN 56082
507-934-3154 or 507-934-4988
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