

Restaurant Review

By Michael Moore

Place: **Catfish Charlie's River Club**
1630 E. 16th St. • Dubuque, IA 52001
Phone: 563-582-8600
www.catfishcharliesonline.com

Atmosphere: Very open and welcoming, you feel like you are no longer in Iowa but ocean side.

Interior: Clean and very open, you have a dining area that overlooks the water and a huge deck for dining and bands, a bar to the right of the door, it looked to sit about 15 or so around the bar.

Wait Staff: Plenty of staff on hand, our waiter Gary, who hails from the east coast, and you can tell by his accent was very helpful, he was on top of his game, with us I think it's a necessity, not that we are demanding but we can be a little loud, we live for the fun and adventure of everything.

Our Bartender was Dan the Man, or as the staff call him "Dog", his drinks were great, we all started with our usual staple "BEER", Jessica went with one of many Blood Mary's they had listed on a menu, she had the "Red Snapper" made with Gin, I think she loved it, it was gone in no time. We were then brought one of Dog's signature drinks The Brass Casket, smooth and very refreshing, it was strong with out you knowing it. I think the casket part of the drink refers to the motive of transportation of leaving if you drink too many of them. We then tried his other signature drink, Dan's River Water. This was smooth and delicious.



Menu: Full menu for Lunch and Dinner, plus a dessert menu that could give you a tooth ache just by reading it. Who we took and what was ordered: Myself, Chad aka (The Silverback), Bart, Jerry, Doc, and the only female in our party Jessica. She had no idea what she was in for.

What we ordered or should I say, what was brought to us was the appetizer round, we had Battered Firecracker Shrimp, Medium Shrimp, buffalo style with ranch dressing, spicy but not so spicy, very good in flavor, Beer Battered Onion Rings, those were just huge, Alligator Bites Tender alligator nuggets tossed in a seasoned tempura batter and fried. Served with a sweet red pepper aioli. We also had a Crab & Shrimp Dip that was served with Flat Bread, it was warm and very delicious, one of the tables top picks. Silverback and Myself tried the Clam Chowder and Doc had the Beef & Noodle Soup, both were top notch soups, Bart, Jessica and Jerry had the Captains Salads, this is a mixture of mixed greens, tomatoes, cucumbers, red onion, provolone and balsamic vinaigrette with parmesan. We thought Jerry was going to lick the plate, he loved the dressing. The soup and salad came with fresh breadsticks brushed with butter.

Next Course: We were brought Charlie's Steak and Tomato Bruschetta, this was a Ribeye Steak topped with three cheese blend and finished with pesto sauce, very rich and very, very good. We also had Three Cheese Smashed Potato, delicious and plentiful, and some Rice Pilaf, very good, light and fluffy. Then we were brought the Walleye, a Canadian filet broiled and drizzled with lemon butter caper sauce light and oh so good, next was the

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Broiled Salmon, Fennel and black pepper encrusted salmon with a creamy sun dried tomato and basil pasta, this was one of my favorite dishes, but there was one more dish coming, this is not on the menu as of yet, I hope it will be by the next visit. They called this the Bourbon Street Shrimp and Chicken, this dish was one of the best I have ever had.

For Dessert: We were brought Strawberry Shortcake, this was made with homemade biscuits, the plate was overflowing with strawberries and whip cream.

This is where I give this the rating of 1 out of 10 hooks, but as luck would have it the next morning at 7:30 a.m. Charlie called me to let me know they forgot to let us try their famous smoked ribs, he asked if we could stop by and try them, he also mentioned the Sunday Brunch they offer, so after raising the troops which was a chore in itself we made our way back to Catfish Charlie's for Ribs and some brunch.

Brunch: It was a huge selection to choose from, an egg station was the first stop, you place that order with the waitress, Charlie had control of that. Four of us had omelet's made to order, very good. We made our way thru the buffet line. Here's a sampling of what you can choose from:

Omelet Station with eggs to order
Chicken, Beef, Ponga (Fish), Ham
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
Vegetable
Pasta Salad, Cole Slaw, Fresh Fruit, Puddings, Lettuce and Dressing and various other salads
Bacon and Sausage
Biscuits and Gravy
French Toast and Syrup
Full Dessert Bar

Don't forget to compliment Brunch with one of Catfish Charlie's Famous Bloody Mary's or Mimosa's.

Then to top it off the Famous Smoked Ribs with Catfish Charlie's BBQ Sauce, they brought a knife to help cut the rack of ribs, too funny, did not need it, the ribs were so tender they pulled off so easy, the taste was full of good smoked flavor and the sauce was perfect, rich and tangy, perfectly cooked.

For the full menu please check out Charlie's website at www.catfishcharliesonline.com. Catfish Charlie's also offers Private Rooms, Entertainment, Catering and Fund Raisers. They also offer Public and Private Charter Yacht Cruises. Go to www.americinaladycruises.com.

So now I can give you the rating, 10 hooks is the best I give. Catfish Charlie's is a 12 Hook Rating, yes it really is that good.

Over All Rating: 12 out of 10 Possible

