

OLLI AT VANDERBILT

Restaurant Adventures Fall 2017

Restaurant: Bavarian Bierhaus

Date: Monday, December 4, 2017

Time of day: 11:30 a.m.

Location: Opry Mills Mall (on the west side of mall – you can't miss the entrance)

Number of OSHER attendees: 10

Reviewer: Viv Pocek

Restaurant description: Bavarian Bierhaus is a new addition to the Nashville restaurant scene. It is an enormous restaurant meant to mimic a, you guessed it, a large Bierhaus (beer joint) in Germany. The ambiance is exactly what you would expect – lots of references to Germany, fun times and beer. Waiters and waitresses all wear traditional Bierhaus attire.

Seating/overall comfort: As with most Bierhaus places in Germany, seating is on large benches that hold about 16 people. The seats are wooden, so they can get uncomfortable after a while.

Service: We had a dedicated server – a very nice young lady. She and a helper did a good job explaining the menu and beer selections. The menu items all had German names, with an English explanation. Food arrived promptly and basically at the same time for the group.

Food: The food is what you would expect from a Bavarian Bierhaus. There is plenty of sausages, schnitzels and many signature dishes such as Saurbraten (marinated, braised beef), Schweinebraten (Munich Pork Roast) and Kasespatzle (German noodles with cheese). Any of these are good. I would recommend that whatever you order, get a side of spätzle with their mushroom gravy.

Price: Prices may seem a bit higher than expected, but you do get a lot of food. Soups are \$6. Schnitzels run between \$18 and \$21. The signature dishes run between \$11 and \$26.

Beer/Wine/Liquor: Full bar. The draft beer selection has an impressive selection of German and Belgian beers, covering many beer varieties. Most are unpronounceable and unfamiliar, but the staff is well trained to give descriptions and recommendations.

Noise Level: Our lunch was scheduled for 11:30. We had a full bench all to ourselves, which wasn't hard because the restaurant was only about one-fifth full. (The place is enormous.) We had no problems conversing. However, I do know that dinnertime is much busier, and on nights when there is a band (traditional "um-pah" music), the place can be crowded.

Parking: Bavarian Bierhaus is at Opry Mills Mall, so parking is not a problem. The restaurant is a newly constructed facility with the main entrance facing west (towards the river). You can't miss the ornate exterior.

Overall recommendation: Definitely worth the trip if you're in the mood for German food with some good beer. I think it would be more fun, however, if you went with a group.