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Chanterelle excels with creative menu

You can't go wrong when you order at Edmonds dining spot

By Andrea Miller
Enterprise features editor

A sunny spring day earlier this week was a good excuse to abandon the homemade lunch in the office refrigerator and seek out a midday meal in more picturesque environs. I didn't know what I was in the mood for, but my instincts -- well, mostly my empty stomach -- told me downtown Edmonds would provide the right choice. And it did, as I was driving down Main Street.

Chanterelle has been a fixture of Edmonds' historic downtown shopping district since 1987. And it's not difficult to see why: a cozy, friendly atmosphere that's just the right setting for tourists and regulars alike to take a break from the day's activities. But much more than that, it is Chanterelle's creative, enticing menus -- whether for breakfast, lunch or dinner -- that keep folks coming back for more.

Dining alone isn't much fun, but my server made the experience pleasant. I was seated along the window where I had a birds-eye view of shoppers and walkers out enjoying the weather. It took me a few minutes to narrow down my selection -- would it be the chicken and goat cheese in pastry, or the black bean burrito? Then there was the cioppino, a traditional Italian seafood stew. There were also mouthwatering salads to be had, such as the double mango salmon salad.

It seemed like the right day for fish, so I finally settled on the salmon sandwich. Lemonade also seemed like a good choice for a warm, sunny lunch out, and it arrived shortly after my order. While waiting for my meal, I turned my attention to the interior of the restaurant, appreciating the antique and replica decor that takes advantage of the building's hardware store history.

The sandwich arrived and I was pleased to see a generously sized, tender fillet, barely restrained by the wheat bun that also contained cucumbers, tomatoes and a dill dressing. What I wasn't expecting was the broccoli salad. Perhaps I should say I expected there to be a broccoli side dish, but its innocuous name didn't prepare me for the amazing dish that arrived with the sandwich.

Like some people I have a bit of a love-hate relationship with broccoli. But imagine this combination: finely chopped, fresh broccoli is tossed with finely chopped red onion, grated cheese, raisins, bacon and sunflower seeds, in a light, creamy dressing.



Chanterelle

Established: 1987

Location: 316 Main St., Edmonds

Phone: 425-774-0650; reservations recommended for weekend dining and large groups

Hours: Breakfast 8-11 a.m., lunch 11 a.m.-3 p.m., dinner 5-9 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday

Price range: \$8.95-\$23.95



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Unconventional? Yes. Delicious? Indeed. Since then I have racked my brain on how to recreate this at home, especially since no one I've told about it believes me.

I guess that means Chanterelle will be seeing a lot more of me from now on -- but it's the last time I'll be dining alone for awhile.



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