



SOUTH CITY KITCHEN VININGS... ANOTHER REASON TO LOVE THE SOUTH!



One of my oldest and dearest friends and I share a birthday month. Every year we make sure that we get together to celebrate another year of friendship and all of the joys that go along with aging. This year our restaurant of choice was South City Kitchen in Vinings. Neither one of us had been to this location, but we have enjoyed a meal or two at several of the other Fifth Group restaurants in the city. I had had a hectic day and was so glad we were not driving into Atlanta for the evening. On the way to South City Kitchen, I thought to myself how lucky we were to have a great restaurant so close to home. South City Kitchen is located in John Weiland Home's first mixed-use development, Ivy Walk, located at 1675 Cumberland Parkway. I had just been to France in January and this area reminded me of European living with its ease of dining and shopping all in

one location.

When we arrived, we were greeted at the door by a pleasant host asking us if we had a reservation. Although we didn't (it is recommended) we were told that the wait would be about 30 minutes. We decided to order a glass of wine and an appetizer in the bar while we waited.

Our first thought was how lovely the interior was. The cherry paneling through out is elegant and radiates a warm feeling. I loved the lighting and the atmosphere was perfect. It's a casual environment that easily would fit as a gathering place for neighbors, business people or travelers.

We decided to order a glass of wine and an appetizer while we waited. The wine list is fantastic! It is quite extensive and we found out that a temperature controlled wine wall holds 1,200 bottles of wine. They also have a full service bar to meet anyone's needs. As you can imagine, the choice was not easy to make. We decided on a Pinot Noir and ordered Chipotle-Honey Glazed Lollipop Chicken Wings and the Maryland Crab Cake. When our appetizers arrived we were both impressed with

their presentation and taste. Within about 20 minutes, we were moved to our table. I noticed that there were groups of girlfriends dining, couples enjoying a nice evening together, and families seated throughout the restaurant.

Our server was great and made us feel comfortable at once. She told us the specials and gave us some time to peruse the menu. Again, making our selections was difficult. South City Kitchen Vinings specializes in contemporary Southern food orchestrated by Chef Dean Dupuis. Dupuis updates his menu with dishes featuring seasonal ingredients. I decided on the Sautéed Shrimps & Scallops with creamy stone ground grits and garlic gravy. My friend ordered the Jambalaya with andouille sausage, scallops, shrimp, mussels with fish and basmati rice in a spicy creole broth. (Is your mouth watering yet?) South City Kitchen also offers soups, salads and meat and fish entrees that are grilled, sautéed or from the skillet. I can't wait to try the Pan Roasted Georgia Trout and the Green Chile meatloaf.

Needless to say, our anticipation was rewarded with a wonderful meal. Shrimp and Scallops were to die for and the creamy grits were heavenly. Of course, I had to taste the Jambalaya and it was everything that the menu

promised it would be.

I was impressed that beginning January 1st the Fifth Group Restaurants had eliminated trans fats in preparations of its food in all six of its restaurants. The food was delicious without all of the unhealthy additives that trans fats secretly add.

Of course, birthday celebrations are not complete without chocolate! Our server brought us the most fantastic Old Fashioned Chocolate Buttermilk cake with fresh cream. An impressive deserts menu included Chocolate Pecan Tart, Banana Pudding, and Sweet Potato Pie. A superb cup of coffee rounded out our ending. What an extraordinary evening of atmosphere and food.

South City Kitchen Vinings caters to private dining groups up to 40 guests and the restaurant seats 230 people within the dining room, bar and patio. On April 19, South City Kitchen Vinings will host an Alive After 5 event from 5-7 open to all Smyrna Business Association members and Cobb Chamber of Commerce members. For more information visit www.smyrnabusiness.com.

South City Kitchen Vinings is located at 1675 Cumberland Parkway in Ivy Walk. 770-435-0700 www.fifth-group.com.

