

A Taste of MARYLAND HEIGHTS

Charlie Gitto's Brings Sheer Elegance From The Hill to Harrah's

St. Louis is famous for its array of outstanding Italian restaurants, but there's no need to drive all the way down to "The Hill" anymore. With the opening earlier this year of Charlie Gitto's inside Harrah's Casino, we've now got an authentic piece of The Hill right here in Maryland Heights. The same outstanding fare, top-notch service and classy surroundings St. Louisans have come to expect from this city mainstay are all there; only the location has changed.

Charlie Gitto's is open for dinner only, so resident reviewer Diana Sowell and I made a reservation for 5:45 on a Wednesday evening. The rustic Italian décor is at the same time both elegant and "homey." Good taste would call for wearing something more than jeans and an old t-shirt, yet the atmosphere wasn't the least bit pretentious, as some "fancy" restaurants can be.

Our gracious server, Audrey, was well versed in the evening's specials, of which there was a fairly long list. She continued to provide

us with superior service throughout the meal, somehow arriving at just the right time to fill a water glass or clear an empty plate. A lot of restaurants have pretty good service, but at Gitto's it is truly a cut above the rest.

We started our meal with salads, a Caesar salad for Diana and a spinach salad for me, which was deliciously accented by toasted walnuts, bleu cheese and a poached pear. We enjoyed the slices of fresh bread that preceded the meal as well as their presentation in a silver spiral basket.

As a main course, Diana chose one of Gitto's signature entrees, Chicken Nunzio. A lightly breaded chicken breast had been sauteed to an unbelievable tenderness and topped with fresh crabmeat, melted provol cheese and a lemon butter sauce. Delicate side dishes of sweet potato soufflé and vegetables rounded out the plate.

I chose the Fettuccine with Seafood, enticed by the menu's description of shrimp, scallops, littleneck clams and langostinos

(similar to lobster) tossed in a three-pepper cream sauce with pasta. The waitress was thoughtful enough to warn me that the sauce was a bit on the spicy side, so I chose to have a milder Alfredo sauce instead. The dish featured an abundance of fresh seafood, so I was pleased with my choice.

As good as the main courses are, it's easy to overindulge, so heed this warning: save room for dessert! It was hard to select just one from an enticing list that included warm walnut-apple cobbler a la mode, crème brulee and tiramisu. We decided to split that evening's special, a warm chocolate cake with crème de menthe sauce and vanilla ice cream. It turned out to be incredibly delicious – some of the darkest, richest chocolate I have ever tasted.

Charlie Gitto's has set the standard for fine dining in Maryland Heights. If you've got something to celebrate, or you want to impress a date or your mate, head toward this Harrah's standout.

by Sara Berry 

Charlie Gitto's

Address: Harrah's, 777 Casino Center Drive, Maryland Heights, MO, 63043

Phone: (314) 770-7663

Hours: Sunday through Thursday, 5 - 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 5 to 11 p.m.

Price Range: Appetizers and salads, \$6 - \$11; pastas \$15 - \$20; entrees \$16 - \$35

Dress: Dressy casual to dressy

	Yes	No
Reservations	●	
Smoking Allowed	●	
Outdoor Dining		●
Carry Out Available	●	
Credit Cards Accepted	●	
Kids Menu		●
Alcohol Served	●	



This semi-private room with a longer table is perfect for large parties and special occasions. Gitto's upscale atmosphere and fancy menu make it a great choice for celebrations.