

Restaurant critic review: Squid Lips breaks away from the pack

By Diana Foote

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

We arrived at Squid Lips hungry and tired the other Saturday night and immediately got our groove back.

First, our solicitous waitress Shelby started us off with some crunchy, creamy fish tacos and coconut onion chips (\$7.99 each). They were far superior to the tired munchies often served at other scenic waterfront restaurants, where food takes a back seat to scenery and "the scene."

After years of tweaking its menu, Squid Lips has finally broken away from that pack, offering a perfect mix of well-done old favorites and inventive new takes.

There is also a new bar drink called "The Painkiller." 'Nuff said.

We went the grown-up route for our entrees, choosing a smoky oak grilling technique for grouper (\$22.99). The catch of the day then was broiled quickly under a honey rum glaze. The shiny patina made it as pretty as it was tasty. It was served with large, buttery broccoli stalks and very cheesy — if a little soupy — au gratin potatoes.

Flaky Islamorada redfish (\$18.99) with crab and lobster stuffing, was served under a thin béarnaise, aromatic with tarragon.

Live music from the duo Rush Release made the evening more enjoyable. Make that "trio." I initially failed to see one phenomenal guitar player, Dylan Miranda, son of Wayne, the piano player, and nephew of Wes, on the bass.

Dylan is 10 years old. He says he has been playing with the band for half his life, since he was 5. Catch him on a Saturday night at Squid Lips before he leaves our parts for Madison Square Garden.

When the band wrapped up, we decided to finish up as well. We ended our visit with a rich, dense peanut butter pie on a crispy chocolate crust and a decadent cheesecake swirled with key lime, raspberry and white chocolate (\$5.99 each).

SQUID LIPS

Cuisine: Seafood and more

Hours: 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday

Address: 1660 Indian River Drive, Sebastian

Phone: 772-589-3828

Alcohol: Full bar

Handicapped access: Yes

Reservations: No



© 2011 Scripps Newspaper Group — Online