

Hyde Park Prime Steakhouse

Destination dining at a mall

One Walden Galleria, Cheektowaga, 685-3111,
www.hydeparkrestaurants.com

The thing about Hyde Park is not just that it's at a mall. It's that it's technically in the ground floor of the Walden Galleria parking lot, where you'll also find the Cheesecake Factory, Bravo, Bar Louie, and others.

And it's nice, after all, to have somewhere elegant to eat after a day's shopping in Cheektowaga. Not everyone wants to be handed toothpicks with samples of nondescript Chinese dishes whilst winding their way to Subway to eat. And sometimes Johnny Rocket's is a bit too bright and cheery.

Hyde Park is no food court fare. Indeed, it's not even as casual as the other restaurants on the northwest corner of the mall. Hyde Park has its own valet parking. The inside is clubby and understated. It is a quality



Photo by kc kratt.
steakhouse. In a parking lot. At a mall.

And like most contemporary steakhouses, the service is exquisite but not overbearing. The steaks are delivered in perfect condition, as ordered. A dozen oysters on the half-shell are a great way to whet your appetite. A menu section called "local favorites" offers up angus burgers, crab cakes, and twin 3.5-ounce filets with béarnaise sauce, each one for about \$20. Sides are for sharing, and the creamed spinach and potatoes gruyere gratin are excellent complements to the 12-ounce filet or the prime ribeye. Savory sauces can be added for free, and lump crab or lobster tail cost extra.

The added benefit to the fact that the service and food are excellent at Hyde Park is the fact that reservations are accepted and honored. No more walking around with a buzzer or waiting despite having a reservation. This is a convenient and excellent culinary oasis in a sea of mediocrity.

—Alan Bedenko