

Café Limbo

I love meat — steak, chicken, prosciutto; if it once breathed, odds are I'll eat it. So I entered vegetarian Café Limbo with optimistic trepidation.

Nestled in a row of boutiques near Shaker Square, Café Limbo is in an effortlessly eclectic converted house. Modern art adorns the walls along with fliers for the bands that play Limbo in the evenings. It's uncluttered and breezy, with a spacious patio.

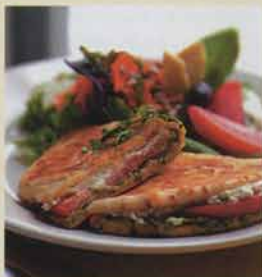
The small café has a big menu.

Lunch is salads, sandwiches and pizza, featuring a cornucopia of fresh veggies, cheese (regular or vegan) and meat substitutions, such as “bacon” or “chicken.” Dinner includes appetizers, salads and entrées such as strudel layered with mushrooms, goat cheese, “pepper steak” and pumpkin seeds with fig balsamic reduction (\$10).

For lunch, I tried the imported goat cheese, plum tomato and pesto grilled in fresh flatbread (\$7.50). This sandwich should be in the hall of fame for lifetime achievements in deliciousness. The flatbread is tender, and the tomatoes (which weren't plum tomatoes, but I didn't mind) are sweet, juicy and perfectly ripe. The homemade pesto is so abundant it dribbles down the sides, and the creamy, tart touch of chèvre seals the deal.

My guest was less enthused with her egg salad with capers, dill and finely chopped vegetables in pita (\$7.50), saying the mayo was too abundant for the egg. But she liked the taste of dill and the zingy crunch of the capers. After she sampled my sandwich, however, I had to guard it zealously. We both enjoyed Limbo's fresh-fruit smoothies (\$3.25).

Sandwiches come with side salads in a zippy cucumber wasabi ranch dressing — we spent a good part of the meal playing “guess what makes this dressing hot.” This is what Café Limbo is all about — conversation between friends in a homey environment. — *Tori Woods*



**Imported goat cheese,
plum tomato and pesto
on grilled flatbread**

Café Limbo, 12706 Larchmere Blvd., Cleveland, (216) 707-3333. MasterCard and Visa accepted. Beer and wine available.

**Quick
Bite**