

RJ's Deli & Tacos - Flat Out Verdadero Bueno y Verdadero Fresco

RJ's Deli & Tacos, located at 113 West Sate Street in downtown Geneva is just flat out real good and real fresh. Always with a smile and a warm greeting, owners Sylvia and Raul Garcia welcome many a varied palate with their restaurant's aptly entitled name. The Garcias provide the perfect solution to workmates sparing over where to eat lunch by offering up both great sammies and truly authentic Mexican food.

Over the years, I've joined the Garcias for lunch and occasional early dinner and have seen them settle into what they like to prepare best, an ample assortment of deli sandwiches and salads and their own home cooked Mexican fare. You got to love a deli that, among its varied sandwich specialties, offers a Capicola Ham and Hot Pepper Cheese. For the young tikes, Raul will wave his magic wand and presto: a PB&J.

As about most things, I'm a neurotic about salads, often torn between the ying and the yang. As if to cater to this neurosis, Sylvia will mix and match upon request, combining her homemade Vegetable Pasta and Capri salads. The Capri Salad, with fresh tomatoes, basil and mozzarella can be a meal in of itself, but mixing those two treasure salads is vivere buono. Here's a local secret: Over the summer months, the Capri Salad is chock full of fresh tomatoes and basil grown in the family's garden. I don't think the mozzarella is grown there though.

Although the sandwich and salad selection has been a constant at RJ's over the years, Raul has recently vaulted the spread to highlight fine, authentic Mexican food. Whether vegetarian or meat-loving, you can choose from a variety of Tacos, Tortas, Tostadas, Flautas, Gorditas and Burritos (for just \$5.50 the large is the size of the Nerf Footballs we wrecked havoc in our living rooms as kids). Primary ingredients include everything from steak, chicken and pork to chorizo, tuna and tongue. Available accouterments also run the full gamut: beans, lettuce, tomato, cheese, sour cream and jalapeno peppers. You go hungry here and you ain't trying.

RJ's scores a solid Sir Eatsalot 8 Forks (out of 10) for fine food and value.

