

Almost Flawless

Excellent

Very Good

Fair to Good

Poor

PRICE KEY

Under \$10
\$10-\$25
Over \$25

BAKERIES

★★½ Full-service bakery/restaurant with French touch. 17370 Preston at Campbell. (972) 399-1111. Daily 7-3. 2nd location: 2205 N Cent Expwy. Sun-Thur 11-10, Fri-Sat 7:30-11. \$ to \$10.

BAKERY (★★★) Family-owned bakery with occasional flaws but loads of charm. Includes Jubilee salad & Hawaiian ham & creamery desserts. 1501 Preston. (972) 30-5300. \$.

BAKERY Bagels, sandwiches, soups, pastries. 612-8660. Mon-Thur 6:30-8, Fri-Sat 7-4. \$.

★★½ French bakery-cafe known for its brioche chicken, breads & pastries. New & light tuna sandwich. 5000 W Park at 270. Sun-Thur 7 am-10 pm, Fri-Sat 7 am-10 pm. \$.

★★★ Offshoot of original Deep Ellum Italian cream cake. Other cakes outstanding. Tasty lunch sandwiches. Ste 369. (972) 964-0111. Mon-Thur 7:30-11, Sat 8-midnt, Sun noon-11. \$.

ARBEQUE

Best-market location is smaller & more intimate; menu also introduces sandwiches & onion rings shine & other sides also good; 18178 Dallas Pkwy at Frankford. (972) 311-9300 (drive-thru till 11), Fri-Sat 11-10. \$.

★★★ Meat is king at this offshoot of unbeatable brisket & pulled pork (a new chicken & ham. Onion rings still probably atmosphere than original, w table service. Dallas Tollway. (972) 447-0102. Daily.

BE BQ (★★★) Beef scores most points, and chicken are good, too. Unassuming. 525 W Arapaho, Richardson. (972) 311-919. \$.

CAJUN

Great fare and rich chicken-andouille gumbo, meatball sandwich, soft pralines. Unfamiliar. Expwy. (972) 424-5261. Mon-Thur 11-8. \$.

CHINESE

★★½ Huge menu of delicious fare made with good choices incl hot-spicy pork & delicious lunch buffet; attentive service. 2300 861-0071. Sun-Thur 11-10, Fri-Sat 11-11 (11-2). \$.

RESTAURANT (★★) Buffet's the thing 3-mi area. 2040 W Spring Creek. (972) 311-1110, Fri 11-11, Sat 11:30-11; Sun brunch 11-2. \$.

Good food & friendly service in simple 3-mi area. 2040 W Spring Creek. (972) 311-1110, Fri 11-11, Sat noon-3. \$.

★★ Offshoot of Lewisville fave offers chicken & corn soup & good house chicken w sizzling golden rice. "Heart-healthy atmosphere; gracious staff. 2001 (972) 756-0808. Sun-Thur 11-9, Fri-Sat 11-2, Sat 5-10. \$.

★★ Mammmoth portions of good Chinese 3741 Preston, Frisco. (972) 335-2772. 5 p.m. Lunch buffet Mon-Fri 11-2, dinner \$5.

Cheery little restaurant; Mongolian beef 2001 Coll. (972) 596-9327. Mon-Sat

★★★ Excellent counter-service Chinese seasoning savvy. Picks were cold noodle dip in garlic sauce, orange beef. 1501 348. Daily 11-10. \$.

Good food, pretty setting, nice lunch buffet, 3741 N Collins, Richardson. (972) 644-0404. Dinner Sun-Thur 5-10, Fri-Sat 5-11. \$ to \$10.

Excellent fare, whether you order from regular menu or to Japanese tastes. Among them, sticky sweet & sour pork, stir-fry, etc. 2600 14th at Jupiter. (972) 881-1888. \$.

Fast-food chain w great egg rolls; other style fare in pleasant setting. Daily lunch 701 N Cent Expwy. (972) 424-8028. 11-10:30. \$.

Longtime Chinese favorite touts huge style fare in pleasant setting. Daily lunch 1721 N Cent Expwy. (972) 881-9315. Sun-Thur 5-9, Fri-Sat 5-9:30. \$ to \$5.



The Dallas Morning News: Summer May

The Swan Court in Richardson features continental cuisine in a quiet, intimate setting.

Swan Court

Food ★★★½
Service ★★★★★
Atmosphere ★★★½

For years I've driven past the "Swan Court" sign on the Central Expressway frontage road at the Richardson/Plano border. But I never bothered to check out just what, or where, this place is.

My mistake. This is one of the classiest eateries around these parts, no matter how curious the location.

It's also pricier than most of the upscale chain restaurants farther up Central, but the clientele seemed a lot broader than just businesspeople on expense accounts.

First the details: You know the tall silver building near Renner and Central with "US DATA" on top? Swan Court is on the first floor. You can park free in the underground garage.

Inside, the oddly shaped, two-level restaurant is divided between a conventional dining room and a bar/supper club where you'll find live music and dancing on most nights. There's lots of light at lunchtime, but for dinner the restaurant turns elegant and intimate, with dark, rich woods, quiet colors and low lamps.

Except, that is, for an inexplicable bright red grand piano. Does Steinway make them that way?

They call the cuisine continental, heavy in steaks and seafood, with veal, chicken and pasta tossed in. On two recent visits, there wasn't a serious misstep along the way.

For appetizers, we tried escargots (\$6.95), very tender and swimming in garlic butter. Delicious, but a bit too salty, even for my sodium-loving missus. Gulf crab cakes (\$6.95) were a tad oily, but also very good. No nits at all to pick about the soup of the day (\$3.95) a creamy New England clam chowder.

The house salad (included with entrees) was generous both with various greens and pine nuts, and featured a walnut sherry vinaigrette. The sweet sherry drowned out the walnuts, but I liked it fine.

Both beef entrees were well-prepared and beautifully presented, but rather unexciting. Steak Diane

(\$19.50) was an excellent filet, sautéed with onions and mushrooms in a wine sauce. Veal rollatini (\$18.75), stuffed with crab and spinach in a Madeira sauce, was hearty but spiced a little too subtly for our tastes.

We were more enthusiastic about the seafood. Braised Norwegian salmon (\$16.75), topped with lemon thyme butter, and blackened orange roughy (\$14.50), spicy but not over-seasoned, were excellent.

Side dishes were flawless. Angel hair pasta was cooked perfectly, sweet-and-sour red cabbage was delicious, sweet potato was less mushy than you're probably used to, and long strips of a light-green vegetable were slightly crunchy with a hint of mint.

I guessed they were zucchini. The missus said celery. Nope, said the waiter — peeled broccoli stems. Why have we been throwing them away?

Doggie bags are cheerfully provided, and you'll need them to save space for dessert. Creme brulee (\$4.75) was fine, but the flourless chocolate cake (\$4.75), with powdered sugar and raspberry sauce, was far more seductive. Curiously, the raspberry sauce was cross-pollinated with whole strawberries, but never mind.

If you're just sharing one, however, go for the tropical fruit Napoleon (\$4.50), beautifully constructed, flaky and sweet. It seemed a shame to carve it up, but our resistance quickly crumbled.

Service was great: smart and efficient yet subtle, a real change from the chirpy, overanxious folks who want to be friends and really, really hope I'm having a great day.

So the problem here isn't attitude, it's altitude. The windows are huge, but the view is ground floor. Why couldn't Swan Court be on the roof?

— Michael Precker

2435 N. Central Expressway (between Renner and Campbell), Richardson. (972) 235-7926. Monday-Thursday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., Friday-Saturday 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. \$\$\$.

BES

THU. FARMERS BRANCH

13 Money matters: Certified financial planner Bob Hall presents a free estate planning program from 1 to 3 p.m. today at the Manske Library on Webb Chapel. See Library activities.

FRI. MCKINNEY/ FARMERS BRANCH

14 Laugh explosion: Catch the Little-Off-the-Square Players presentation of the melodrama *Who's Minding the Mine?* at the McKinney Cafe on Louisiana tonight and Saturday. Dinner starts at 6:30, show at 8. See Dinner theater.

Wheels and deals: Take in the Cycleation motorcycle swap meet, bike show and sale today through Sunday on Stemmons. See Events.

MOVIE RATINGS	
★★★★	Excellent
★★★	Good
★★	Fair
★	Poor

Mini-reviews, except where noted, are written by Beth Peaker, Rick Horst, Jane Sumner, Chris Vogner or Philip Wuntch. Writers are identified by their initials. Movies without stars have not been rated.

FILMS & THEATERS

MCKINNEY
MCKINNEY MOVIES 14 (CINEMARK) 1720 S Central Expressway (btwn El Dorado & Louisiana). Metro (972) 562-2522. Today: *Private Parts*, *Jungle 2 Jungle*, *Sing*, *Blade*, *Marvin's Room*, *Donnie Brasco*, *Booby Call*, *The Empire Strikes Back*, *Shine*, *Absolute Power*, *Footloose*, *That Dam Cat*, *Vegas Vacation*, *Dante's Peak*, *Star Wars*, *Jerry Maguire*. Opening Fri: *Return of the Jedi*, *City of Industry*.

PLANO
AMC CENTRAL PARK 7 Park Blvd and N Cent. (214) 855-6444. Today: *Jungle 2 Jungle*, *Marvin's Room*, *Donnie Brasco*, *Vegas Vacation*, *Shine*, *The English Patient*, *Star Wars*. Opening Fri: *Love Jones*.
GCC COLLIN CREEK 6501 Accent Drive. (972) 424-0555. Today: *Private Parts*, *Booby Call*, *That Dam Cat*, *Dante's Peak*, *Evita*, *Jerry Maguire*. Opening Fri: *Return of the Jedi*.
PLANO MOVIES 16 (CINEMARK) Westpark Vlg Shopping Ctr, Coll & Park Rd. (972) 985-6022. Today: *The Preacher's Wife*, *Zeus and Roxanne*, *The Pest*, *The Crucible*, *Fierce Creatures*, *Michael Collins*, *The Ghosts of Mississippi*, *Ransom*, *Mars Attacks!*, *One Fine Day*, *Space Jam*, *The Mirror Has Two Faces*. Opening Fri: *101 Dalmatians*, *Beavis and Butt-head Do America*, *The Evening Star*, *First Strike*.
BONY CHISHOLM N Cent at Park Blvd. (972) 423-9136. Today: *Mother*, *The Empire Strikes Back*, *Rosewood*, *Absolute Power*, *Footloose*, *Return of the Jedi*, *The Beautician and the Beast*. Opening Fri: *City of Industry*.

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