

The Park
118 Tenth Avenue
New York, NY 10011

This Park Has Plenty of Perks

I'll admit that I had my doubts about this place. I arrived before my dining companions and the tattooed girl up front would not seat me until we all were there. As I sat waiting, I saw my favorite sight in the world: little kids running around. This restaurant looked like yuppie hell smack in the middle of the now oh so trendy Meatpacking District.

After Brian and Arlene arrived, we were seated in the Garden, where thankfully no children could be seen or heard. After ordering some coffee, my grumpiness started to dissipate and I really began to appreciate the absolutely gorgeous atmosphere. The place is called The Park for a reason – the Garden area is an enclosed park, complete with Japanese maple trees and vines of Wisteria. On this particularly hot day, the restaurant was breezy and very comfortable.

Even better is the food. Eggs benedict is the most ubiquitous of brunch dishes but here it gets a truly innovative twist with Smoked Salmon Benedict with Potato Pancakes and Mixed Field Greens. Two perfectly runny poached eggs sit atop fresh smoked salmon and potato pancakes instead of Canadian bacon and English muffin. The simple salad of wild greens and teardrop tomatoes on the side is the perfect accompaniment. Arlene and I were both very satisfied with this dish, which for \$12.00 is a good deal. Next time, though, I would ask for some sliced raw onion, which would go really nice with the smoked salmon. Brian had the Ricotta Pancakes with Orange Mascarpone Marmalade (also \$12.00) and a side of bacon (\$4.00). The pancakes were light and airy, the orange flavor subtly sweet, and the bacon thick and perfectly cooked – crispy but not burnt.

Our waitress was genuine and charming. She told us at night the place looks great and they even have dancing and live music on weekend evenings. This would no doubt be an awesome place for an old-fashioned romantic dinner or very swish private party.

The Park is heavy on atmosphere (the bar area and downstairs bathrooms are great too) and definitely worth the trek to the Meatpacking District.

Click below for more info:
<http://www.theparknyc.com/>

