



Elizabeth, Shelby, Maggie and Maggie at CineBistro.

Unravel tries CineBistro

Maggie Menderski | Feb 16, 2016 9:03am [SEE MORE OF MAGGIE MENDERSKI'S ENTRIES](#)

CineBistro is shaking up the movie scene in Sarasota.

The luxury movie theater at Westfield Southgate takes the traditional dinner and a movie concept and twists it into one gourmet experience.

CineBistro hosted a preview last night on the eve of its Friday opening.

And Unravel was there so you'd know just what to watch for at CineBistro — and I'm not just talking about a movie.

Maggie Clark

The food was so much better than I'd expected. My favorite appetizer was the curried cauliflower, main dish was the chicken sandwich and dessert was the banana cheesecake.

I loved being able to order food from my seat — it was like a cruise or a mini-vacation.

My one criticism of the theater layout — it's hard to enjoy with a group. The seating is designed for couples, so if you go with a group of girlfriends, you won't be able to see one another's faces, which is part of the fun of going to a movie with a group.

But otherwise, a great experience. I will definitely go back.

Elizabeth Johnson

I obviously grabbed a drink first — my eyes immediately shifted toward the Almond Old Fashioned. A little sweet, but damn delicious. And, surprisingly, made with tequila.

Then I was hungry, so I grabbed the first thing I saw — curried cauliflower. I'm definitely a carnivore, but this spicy piece of cauliflower may have been the most flavorful vegetable I've ever had. I need the recipe.

The smoked fish dip was super yummy and, um, smoky, though I found the cracker to be a bit more chewy than crunchy. The Nashville Hot Fried Chicken was probably my favorite dish — a juicy piece of chicken with a spicy breading, crunchy pickle, cold slaw and sweet honey.

Aside from the food and drinks, the theaters were great. Huge screens and nicer seating than I have at my house. The best part is there's not a bad seat in the house thanks to the reclining seats, which solve that problem of craning your neck if you're in the front row.

Maggie Menderski

First. A shout out to the CineBistro staff. They hustled last night. They had a tall order to fill from us Unravelers, who were basically acting like kids in a candy store with the cocktail list. (The strawberry mango lemon drop martini being my favorite — a slightly sweet, slightly tart elixir of perfection in a glass.)

CineBistro has long touted their emphasis on service, and the new staff at Westfield Southgate did not disappoint last night. Major kudos.

I'm going to echo Elizabeth for a second. The CineBistro fried chicken — whether in slider or popcorn form — was off the charts. The popcorn chicken was served as a nod to a traditional movie theater snack and mixed in with popcorn shrimp and standard popped popcorn. It was well seasoned and lightly sauced with a sweet citrus aioli and it was divine.

And yes, the key lime creme brulee doughnut I mentioned earlier this week will change your life.

As for the theater, I'll definitely be back. I've never been a huge fan of awkwardly and uncomfortably sitting in a room with dozens of people to see a movie. But this completely redefined that. We were watching Derek Zoolander be really, really, really, really good looking in a chair that's more relaxing than any of the furniture in my condo.

The whole experience is pricey and can easily rack up to about \$60+ per person for a ticket, drinks and a meal.

But if you're going to do a movie, you might as well do it in style.

meet the writer

MAGGIE MENDERSKI

Maggie is a washed-up theater geek who still sings an impressive(ly bad) version of The Foundation's "Build Me Up Buttercup" at karaoke nights. She spent the first 26 years of her life living in the Midwest. Then, one winter, her hair legitimately froze to icicles like Rose's does near the end of Titanic. That was enough for her, so she moved her karaoke skills to Sarasota.

[VIEW ALL POSTS BY MAGGIE](#)

