

MEYER'S FOOD CRITIQUE

The Challenger's hungriest editor takes on Des Moines restaurants.

People say that Des Moines has really good diversity for the small size of the city, so I took on the duty of trying some of these restaurants so the community of Hoover can know where to put their money.

ZOMBIE BURGER: \$\$



300 E GRAND AVE, DES MOINES, IA

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Zombie Burger is a very popular gourmet burger restaurant. Known for their alternative aesthetic, original naming of their dishes, and inclusivity, Zombie Burger has placed themselves on the map as a must-eat.

When I ate there with my accomplice, Sanel Redzanovic, we got an appetizer, two main dishes and a dessert. I ordered the "Dead Moines" - a smoked gouda and ham sandwich with a patty substitute of a portobello mushroom. This sandwich was topped off with truffle mayo. Truffle mayo is basically a very salty ham and mayo mixture. I did not like the truffle mayo as it was way too salty for me. It took over the sandwich; I think it would have been better with normal mayo. We also ordered chili cheese fries which were underwhelming. The chili didn't have much flavor to it. It looked like it would have more flavor, so I was expecting really good chili. Sonic has better, more flavorful chili cheese fries. Also, the staff was very polite and personal with my accomplice and me. I would give this four Husky paws out of five.

EL RODEO: \$

7420 DOUGLAS AVE, URBANDALE, IA

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El Rodeo is a fairly popular restaurant in Urbandale that many really like and some don't. Personally, if you want some cheap and reliable food, I'd say go to El Rodeo. You know what you're getting, and I personally love their enchiladas and cheese quesadillas. Their enchiladas have a perfect balance of sauce, cheese and meat ratios. Their red sauce is also not too spicy. Their quesadillas are, again, perfect ratios of cheese and tortilla. They put more cheese than tortilla but I am a big cheese fan. Their staff was polite but didn't wow me at all. I would give this three Husky paws out of five.



THE CHEESECAKE FACTORY: \$\$\$

101 JORDAN CREEK PKWY, DES MOINES, IA

5  / 5 



The Cheesecake Factory is the best expensive place I've been to. Cheesecake has a special place in my heart, so I am very biased. The Cheesecake Factory is a chain restaurant at a higher price. This restaurant is known for their cheesecake and their variety of food. My accomplice and I tried the calamari appetizer and it was probably the worst calamari I have ever had. It wasn't too greasy; it was just bad. It was very gummy, so it was most likely over-cooked and it had no flavor. For my entrée I ordered a five-cheese pasta with chicken, and it was the best pasta I have ever had. It had a marinara sauce that was plentiful. There weren't too many noodles overpowering the sauce and cheese which was good. I'm usually a person who only likes baked pasta, but this wasn't baked and I really enjoyed it. It was oozing with cheese and it all mixed together perfectly to make a mouth-watering flavor. The chicken was also cooked to perfection. It wasn't mushy and it wasn't dry, it was perfect. I would give this five Husky paws out of five.

In conclusion out of all three of these, The Cheesecake Factory will be your most consistent. Zombie Burger will wow you and taste amazing and El Rodeo will satisfy your cravings for Latino food.

