

On our plate: Sesame



photo//Carly Knight-Carrier

Burgers became a thing of the past ever since I became vegetarian two years ago. But I've not given up on my search for the perfect veggie burger. Many restaurants have tried to create the perfect one, and Sesame has gotten pretty darn close.

Sesame is located at 676 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., making it a central location.

I'm not going to lie; I've been to Sesame before, but only when I was a carnivorous fifth grader. From what I remember, I liked it, but I recently heard about its black bean burgers, so I decided to give it a try.

The spacious restaurant had an industrial type ambiance and a touch of a retro feel with the red vinyl booths. It was clean, organized and you could still hear the rest of your party. Immediately, I was impressed. It was unlike any other pub that I've been to. When I walked in, I was immediately greeted by a pleasant hostess and seated with no wait. The service at the table was great as well. Although the wait for the food was a little stretched out, it was worth it by the taste and quality of the food.

Then Marilyn Monroe of the evening -- the burgers.

We ordered two sliders each with only five of them being black bean burgers. They were maybe two-thirds the size of a regular burger, but they were the perfect size for multiple choices.

The black bean patty wasn't crumbly or dry like I've had in previous black bean burgers. There was a slight bean taste, but it didn't take away from the flavor combination for the burger. Just the patty itself, I would give it a solid eight out of 10.

Our party had five sliders to pick out of ten incredibly thought-out signature burgers.

To start, I tried "Judy's Patty Melt," and I wasn't pleased. It

tasted like a mediocre stadium burger. I would not recommend the patty melt unless you are interested in a generic entree.

Next, I had the "Charleston" with pimento cheese and pickled okra. I went into this one with already lowered expectations because of my dislike for pimento cheese, but I am a big fan of okra, so it could have been a hit or miss for me. Unfortunately, it was a miss.

Third on my list was the "Diablo," a sour patch kid-type of burger, but instead of sour to sweet, the flavor went from sweet to spicy. The combination of tequila pineapple and ghost pepper jack cheese was the ultimate flavor explosion in my mouth, leaving a spicy sensation on my tastebuds long after I finished the slider.

"Hawaii Five-O" had pineapple, provolone cheese, teriyaki and smoked ham, but I asked the server to remove the ham. Pineapple was a great addition to contrast the savory flavor of the burger. I would definitely get this again.

Last but definitely not least, the "Napa Valley," which was my personal favorite of the night. The fig and red wine compliments the savory flavors of the bleu cheese and black beans in the burger. The rich flavors excited my mouth and made this entire meal with the money.

For the black bean burgers, the price is \$10.25, which is not terrible for the entire experience and the food quality that you get at Sesame. There are added payments for appetizers and specialty sides if you chose to get them.

I am overall satisfied with the veggie burger at Sesame and am very interested in trying more of these signature flavors. I would definitely recommend Sesame to anyone looking for a great veggie burger.

-Eva Chillura, Staff Writer

PICKS AND PEEVES

Laurel Thorp
Design Editor

Pick: Waking up before you have to

There is something special about that feeling when you groggily open your eyes, it's still dark outside and you can allow yourself to nestle back under your covers and get more shut eye, whether it's 30 minutes or four hours.

Peeve: "No offense"

Nothing bothers me more when someone says "No offense but..." because clearly, you know what you're about to say is offensive, but you just don't want the repercussions from it. Just FYI, this phrase does not free you from taking responsibility for what insulting statement

Pick: Dogs

What is there not to love? Dogs are the epitome of happiness. Getting home and being "attacked" by your dog's pure joy of seeing you is my favorite part of the day. It could be 30 minutes or 30 days and they still greet you with an equal amount of excitement. Dogs are arguably the best gift to mankind.

Peeve: Credit card chips

Yes, I get it, the chip has some magical power to prevent security breaches, but it just is not convenient when I have to insert my card, wait while the cashier and I have awkward conversation, all while I'm praying my card doesn't somehow get declined. Swiping was just so much easier and quicker, that's it.

Favorite song: "Santeria" by Sublime

While it's super hard to find one absolute all-time favorite song, I feel like "Santeria" captures everything a quality song needs. Everyone can admit this is a classic. It's the best jam for every occasion which is why it's the best. Whether it's in your car by yourself or on the boat in the summer, it is undeniably a song that wraps up a great song.

Favorite movie: *The Great Gatsby* (2013)

This movie is such a classic. The soundtrack is truly beautiful, Leonardo DiCaprio is beautiful, along with every picture in the film. It's a truly glorious movie, truly encapsulating the beauty of the book.

676 Johnnie

Dodds Blvd

SPECIALTIES

- Soup: Shrimp Bisque and Parsley
- Appetizer: Queso and chips
- Sandwich 1: Blackened chicken quesadilla with roasted red peppers, cheddar cheese and cowboy ranch
- Sandwich 2: Turkey tacos on flour tortillas

PRICE RANGE



SUGGESTED

- Triangle Char Bar
- Graze Restaurant
- Poe's Tavern
- The Shelter Kitchen and Bar