

Roseville Granite Bay style



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March's Featured Restaurants

The Old Spaghetti Factory
731 Sunrise Avenue, Roseville
916-773-3950

We decided to visit the Old Spaghetti Factory with a mission, to find out why this place is so darned popular! It was raining, and the restaurant's old world ambience felt comfortable and warm. A red caboose, marked Roseville Auburn Transit #520, sits in the middle of the first floor, with diners busily eating inside. Naturally, we had to take a trip in the glass elevator. It's the main attraction, according to my 4-year-old daughter.

We were seated at a table that resembled a bed, with brass headboards on each side. I felt like Charlie's grandparents in the movie Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Entrées are all-inclusive and inexpensive, from \$7-\$11 per meal, including minestrone soup or salad, fresh baked bread, coffee/tea/milk and ice cream. Children's meals are \$4.25. We ordered the garlic cheese bread, worth the \$4 extra. "I can't stop eating it," says my six-year-old son.



Though my favorite dish is spinach and cheese ravioli, I decided to try the Premier combo, baked lasagna and chicken Marsala. The lasagna was hearty, with Piedmontese beef (no hormones, no antibiotics), pork and four kinds of cheeses. Generous amounts of tomato sauce kept it moist. The chicken Marsala was slightly disappointing, but the sauce with fresh mushrooms was tasty. My husband had the spinach tortellini with Alfredo sauce and enjoyed the creamy texture of the meat and cheese-stuffed noodles.

Our kids ate macaroni and cheese and spaghetti, served on cute, durable kids' plates with colorful handprints on them. They chose applesauce and salad (a fruit/vegetable serving - a bonus for moms!). For dessert, we had vanilla ice cream, Crystal brand. Other options are spumoni (a pistachio concoction) or frozen juice bars.

For an added bargain, visit www.osf.com and print out the kids' reading awards certificate. Kids can read five books, get a parent signature, and bring it in for a free meal. It's like getting a golden ticket.

Now we see why families flock to the factory!

— Denise Witt

A Dash of Panache
217 Vernon Street, Roseville
916-788-4386

Wow, every girl's fashion can be found here at A Dash of Panache. Little girls, big girls, and even those of us in-betweeners, can be sure to feed whatever fancy they may have while visiting this very entertaining Ice Cream – Refreshment Parlor.

During my visit there one Sunday afternoon, we watched as little girls trickled in for various themed parties. Little princesses decked out in their most royal of outfits, and others dressed to the nines in their best "little lady" tea party attire, were led into the party rooms to share time celebrating birthdays and girl friendships.



We enjoyed a few items from their lunch menu, which consists of various sandwiches, salads and gourmet soups. I had the Tuscan Grilled Chicken Sandwich, a fantastic combination of Italian flavors, and the house favorite. My dining partner had the Albacore Tuna Salad Sandwich and we shared a bowl of the gourmet creamy tomato soup with Gorgonzola cheese.

They also brew a wide variety of loose leaf teas served hot or iced. We enjoyed a refreshing peach infused ice tea and the service was very helpful and attentive. As our lunch was being prepared, we browsed through the gift section. They offer many friendship and etiquette-inspired books as well as a very unique and witty selection of gifts and treasures.

Celebrating a birthday, baby or bridal shower, or an evening with your best girlfriends would be most memorable in a party room at A Dash of Panache. The famous Vanity Closet is overstocked with many pampering supplies and the parlor is definitely very well prepared to completely spoil any fun-loving and interactive group.

A Dash of Panache is located on Vernon Street in the heart of Downtown Roseville. They accommodate many theatergoers, as there are two live theaters close by as well as many antique shops and boutiques. You can enjoy a very fulfilling afternoon taking in the sights and pleasures of this lovely diner.

— Heather Harvin

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