

## DIVERSIONS

AS SEEN IN



# Home Run!

## DINING OUT—LESTER'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL

By Sidney Lewis



Lester's Sports Bar & Grill  
4651 Maryland Ave. • 932-6040

**L**ester's Sports Bar & Grill recently added a third location in the CWE at 4651 Maryland Ave., in the space that formerly housed Companion Bakery. As fans of the other two, we had to check out the new place to see if it lives up to the stellar Lester's reputation.

All of the menu items—and the prices—are the same at all three restaurants. Like its sister restaurants, the CWE Lester's has a ton of TVs (37 high-definition flat screens, including four on the rooftop patio, to be precise) so there's no chance of missing any of the action during the game. The eatery seats about 160, including a spacious wraparound bar and a private dining room. There's also plenty of sports memorabilia throughout for fans to gawk at.

We started with an order of All-American Mini Burgers (\$9) and a bowl of White Bean Smoked Turkey Chili (\$5). The four burgers were a cut above the usual slider variations available at most sports bars, well-cooked and juicy. They came with American cheese, and

were the perfect size for sharing. We especially enjoyed the buns, which were dense and flaky and tasted homemade. The chili was a real standout, creamy and full of chunks of turkey, with a tangy dollop of cilantro sour cream in the center. Technically, it reminded us more of a cream soup than a traditional chili, but it was delicious nonetheless.

The menu has a large selection of salads, eight in all, and they're definitely big enough to be meals all by themselves. But Lester's is renowned for its house-made meats, and we decided the real test of the new place would be to give some of these favorites a taste, so we hit the Overstuffed New York Deli Sandwiches section of the menu.

The Hot Smoked Turkey Breast (\$10), definitely represented the brand well. The sandwich was piled high with juicy turkey, and served on rye bread. The sandwich was also available in a 'colossal' size (\$15) but we found our 'full' sized sandwich was more than enough

food! In our opinion, no trip to Lester's is complete without tackling a Reuben The Great (\$13). This flagship sandwich is available with a choice of corned beef, pastrami or turkey, along with Swiss cheese and Thousand Island dressing on grilled rye bread. We opted for corned beef, and we can definitely say it was as tender and savory as any we've had at Lester's in Ladue or Chesterfield. Both sandwiches came with a crock of either coleslaw or potato salad, so we got one of each. We thought both were pretty tasty examples of classic church picnic sides.

We finished up with a slice of Carrot Cake (\$5), easily as decadent a dessert as we've had at many a fine-dining restaurant recently.

Even though the food is great, it's worth a note that Lester's is a sports bar at the end of the day, so don't expect a quiet dinner experience, especially if a St. Louis team is playing! ♦