

## Savoring Savor

There's plenty worth savoring at Savor, Manchester's newest restaurant.

### Ginger Warder

*Richmond.com*

Thursday, August 14, 2008

Change the "o" in Savor to an "e," and the name of this hip new café on W. 7th and Porter streets would make just as much sense.

Chef Ellie Basch, who formerly owned a successful local catering company, is dishing up fresh, locally-sourced salads, soups, sandwiches, desserts and take-out dinner entrées that could make this your one-stop food shop.

Basch grew up in Indonesia and learned to cook from her mother, who ran a catering business in Java. After moving to the U.S. to attend college, she honed her skills working at various restaurants throughout the South, before opening her own catering company in Richmond. Savor combines her love of cooking with her catering experience to create a comfortable eat-in breakfast and lunch restaurant, with high quality take-out offerings with Asian flair and a French sensibility.

Pop in first thing in the morning for a specialty coffee or Mayan hot chocolate and an Elvis Panini (grilled PB & J with bananas), pick up a boxed lunch to take to the office and place your order for one of the day's special take-home dinner entrées.

Located in the Corrugated Box Building, Savor has a cool industrial vibe with massive beams and an exposed freight elevator that's lightened up by bright white furniture, colorful art, and a red polka-dotted wall behind the ordering counter.

When I visited for breakfast, I had to try the Elvis Panini, but I splurged and added chocolate to mine for an additional 25 cents. If you like something sweet in the morning, this gooey breakfast sandwich with natural peanut butter, bananas and jelly on buttery brioche will hit the spot, and is a bargain at \$3.50. Savor also has a large selection of fresh breads, Danish and croissants from Richmond's Flower Garden Bakery, and it was a thoughtful touch to see some vegan options in the pastry selection. Cookies and other confections are made in-house by Basch and Sous Chef Austin Deaghan.



Lunch selections include a rotating selection of grilled cheese sandwiches and chopped salads, several different kinds of paninis including caprese, crab cake, turkey, flank steak and chicken salad to name a few, and two to three homemade soups daily.

The Elvis is also served all day long, even though it's listed on the breakfast section of the menu. All sandwiches come with a choice of one of the two daily sides, rice pilaf and potato salad on the day of my visit. I went for the Smoked Gouda and red cabbage grilled cheese and a cup of turkey vegetable soup, and did the half sandwich/soup combo which saved me \$1.

The tangy cabbage was a nice counterpoint to the smoky and salty cheese, and the soup was just like Mom used to make, with large chunks of roasted turkey floating among the zucchini, carrots, green beans, onions and other vegetables.

Sandwiches and paninis run from \$7.50 to \$9.50 and salads from \$6.95 to \$8.50. Many sandwiches and salads are already wrapped for takeout in the Grab 'N Go fridge, and boxed lunches are available for \$9.50. Call in your order for one and pick it up yourself, or if you have a group, Savor will bring it right to your office.

Some of the most popular dinner-to-go items are shrimp scampi, roasted vegetable lasagna, crab cakes and bacon-wrapped meatloaf with mashed potatoes (\$8 to \$14). Sign up on the Savor website for emails with the weekly offerings, and call in your dinner order a day in advance if possible, as this has become a popular option for the busy professionals in the downtown and Shockoe Slip neighborhoods.

Whether you stop by for the King's panini, a coffee and croissant, or to pick up lunch or dinner, Savor is not only a tasty detour over the bridge, but also a budget and time-saver.

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**"Savor is ... a tasty detour over the bridge."**

**IF YOU GO:**

**Savor**

201 W. 7th St.

**(804) 52-Savor**

**Hours:**

Monday through Thursday: 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Closed Saturday and Sunday.

*Non-smoking.*

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