

GOURMAND SIG

BY PAT YAROS

December is the month for Gourmand SIG's Grand Holiday Celebration. This year, we went to one of the dining rooms in the new Hilton Main hotel in downtown Norfolk. Present to enjoy the evening were the following: Linda Carol Adrienne and Kim Smith, Chris Cooper with his friend George, Don Gregory, Ron and Helen Lee, Dave and Liz Remine, Denise Ross, Kim Rouke, Charles and Leela Thompson, Joe Turlo and friend, John Williams, and Steve and Pat Yaros.

We were served from a prix-fixe menu – thus the absence of a lot of variation in the food selections. Ratings are listed to the right, ranging from 1 to 10 with 10 being the highest:

Comments about the dinner included the following: Leela, "The shrimp was tough and chewy." Charles said, "very bland chicken." Steve thought there was "not much taste to anything." Linda Carol rated her grits a 9.0 and her soup a 9.5. She called her food "bland," but she thought her Malbec was nice. Kim S. found her chicken to be pleasant, but nothing to write home about. The she-crab soup, however, she found to be "delicious." Joe enjoyed the salad and noted that he got "lots of it." Helen liked the salad and shrimp, and Ron said these were the best grits he's had. Don's she-crab soup and grits each rated a 10.0.

Leela - Shrimp.....	2.0
Charles - Chicken.....	5.0
Steve -	5.0
George -	8.5
Liz -	9.0
Dave -	8.0
Helen - Salad and Shrimp and Rice.....	4.5
Denise - Grits.....	9.5
Kim R. - Shrimp, Grits and salad.....	8.0
John - Chicken.....	7.0
Don -	8.0
Pat -	7.5

As for the desserts – Joe had the brownie, which he said tasted good, but carried a strange texture. He gave it an 8.0. Kim had the mousse, giving it a 7.0. Linda Carol gave the brownie a 6.0, and the mousse an 8.0. Helen's dessert rated a 10.0 but was coated with a mysterious green sauce. Denise awarded her "wonderful peanut bar" a 10.0. Ron's dessert, when served, was still frozen in the middle. Don sent his mousse back, saying it had way too much sugar. He received a brownie as the replacement, and all but the crust of that was good. Kim rated her mousse at 5.0, saying it was the worst part of the dinner. Charles rated the mousse 9.5, saying it saved the meal. Leela called her brownie "dry" and rated it as a 5.0. Steve's brownie, however, earned a 7.0 from him.