

Byblos
200 East 39th Street (between Second and Third Avenue)
New York, NY 10016

Smart Food, Dumb Waiter

As much as I love Chinese and Italian food, after a while, you crave something different. How about a Lebanese restaurant with Middle Eastern and Greek influences? That's what you will find at Byblos, a charming restaurant with just as much ambience as good food.

I have only been here for lunch and for \$14.95 you get a great deal that includes choice of soup or salad (I had the lentil soup, which was passable but bland), entrée, and coffee and dessert. When you sit down, you get a basket of delicious warm thin pita bread and a relish dish of carrots, pepperoncini, and marinated turnips, the latter being a wonderfully tangy and vinegary surprise that I had never tasted before.

I had grilled lamb kebabs for my main course. I asked for it medium rare and it arrived just that way – tender, juicy, and flavorful. It is served with rice and marinated mushrooms. My dining companion had flounder, which he enjoyed.

Dessert was not impressive – I have had much better baklava. Service was okay but got off to a bad start when I asked for a table in the corner that was for four but told I could not have it, only to be seated at a different table for four. Made no sense, and no one even came to sit at that table.

So for something different, the food at Byblos is good, the service, on the hand, could use an attitude adjustment.

Click below for more info:
<http://www.byblosny.com>

