

Jane
100 West Houston Street (between Thompson St. and LaGuardia Pl.)
New York, NY 10014

This Jane Is No Ignorant Slut

I must admit, I was a little skeptical about Jane when I first walked in. It was a Saturday afternoon and the clientele was predominantly young women who thought they were on *Sex and the City*. Luckily, I was here for my friend Gloria's 80th birthday party, so we had a private room downstairs.

Aside from the fact it was so wonderful to help Gloria celebrate her birthday, this restaurant totally overwhelmed me in every way. For starters, there were the ubiquitous baskets of bread and bottles of olive oil on the table. I poured some olive oil on my plate and dipped some bread in it. Wow! I never tasted such a smooth and flavorful olive oil. I asked the waitress what brand of oil this was. "This isn't any brand," she said. "We make this ourselves here, they flavor it with all kinds of different herbs." Very impressive.

I started with wild mushroom soup, which was big enough for lunch by itself. The soup was delicious and refreshingly not overshadowed by heavy cream, letting the rich flavor of the mild mushrooms come through.

For my main course, I had what has to be the best entrée I have had in a restaurant in maybe several years – I kid you not. Sesame Crusted Salmon Salad should be renamed – you may think this is some sort of light salad with a few salmon chunks. Nope. A perfectly cooked whole filet of salmon is coated with sesame seeds and served on top of a beautiful cold Asian salad consisting of soba noodles, julienne vegetables, and a soy-mustard dressing. The contrast of the warm salmon and cold salad is a wonderful flavor combination. I am a big salmon lover but I have never had it prepared as creatively or tastily as this. And this huge portion of food is only \$16.00.

The wait staff is so attractive, young, and friendly that I actually found myself rooting for them to land whatever role they go up for on their next audition.

With huge portions, reasonable prices, great food, and great service, it's actually worth putting up with the Sarah Jessica Parker wannabes who frequent the joint.

Click below for more info:

<http://www.janerestaurant.com/>

