

CHAT'S LIQUORS

On Capitol Hill's Historic Barracks Row



Fine Wines, Spirits, Beer
and CAO Cigars



- A diverse product line of quality beverages from all over the world
- One of the largest and most unique wine selections on Capitol Hill
- A friendly and knowledgeable staff
- Located just minutes from Downtown, DC and Alexandria, VA
- 1 block south of Eastern Market Metro on the vibrant Barracks Row
- Owned by the Williams Family since 1978; established before 1919
- **The best weekly wine tastings on "The Hill"- Sat (3-6pm)**

15% off Mixed cases of wines!
(Excludes some already discounted wines and Champagne)

Delivery and Special Ordering Available

503 8th Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
202.544.4660

www.chatsliquors.com



**TURKEYS
ARE BACK FOR
THANKSGIVING!**

Market Poultry
Since 1977



DROP BY & ORDER

TURKEY • CHICKEN • DUCKS & GEESE
EXOTIC MEATS • WILD GAME BIRDS

MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION
ORDER **FRESH** FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

LOCATED IN HISTORIC EASTERN MARKET'S NEW EAST HALL

225 7th St. SE • 202-543-7470

Dulce –How Sweet It Is

New Café Opens Near Frager's

BY CELESTE MCCALL

We'd been getting rave reviews about Dulce Café & Lounge, which debuted in September next to Frager's Hardware on Pennsylvania Ave. SE. When we checked out the newcomer, we were not disappointed. At noon on a chilly Wednesday, we were greeted by manager James Riley (whom we remember from Chinatown's Matchbox), and Dulce co-owner Nyika Humphries. No strangers to the restaurant biz, Nyika and her husband Clifton Humphries also operate the H Street Martini Bar at 1236 H St. NE.

Dulce lunchtime customers—some of whom appeared to be regulars—began to trickle in. As we spoke with Humphries, we took in the muted decor—largely designed by Clifton—of beige walls, striped booths and high tables and chairs by the window.

Sipping raspberry/pomegranate tea, we scanned the luncheon menu and decided to take advantage of the restaurant's "2 for \$8 or 3 for \$10" midday special, which includes a half sandwich on whole wheat or rosemary focaccia bread, paired with a soup and/or salad. Husband Peter chose a half portabello sandwich (he could have gone for turkey, ham or chicken salad), and a cup of butternut squash soup. I ordered tummy-warming beef chili topped with shredded Cheddar cheese, and a small Greek salad. But first, our server Melanie Rice brought us a savory spinach/cheese dip escorted with crisp tortilla chips. Delicious. We extended our compliments to chef William Redd, who's also cooked at Harry's Tap Room in Rockville.

Dulce's other lunchtime options were classic Caesar and cranberry/pecan/mixed green salads; "White Castle" sliders (\$4 each or 3 for \$10); fish and chips; and shrimp and grits. The latter is Dulce's top seller, and is also available on the dinner menu. We'll try that on our next visit. Other evening choices are



Dulce's brownie sundae—a decadent brownie mounded with vanilla ice cream, sprinkled crowned with a maraschino cherry.

Nyika and Clifton Humphries, owners of Dulce.

A plate of savory steamed mussels.
All Photos: Andrew Lightman



penne pasta with pesto, grilled salmon, braised calamari and marinated steak and onions.

Then came the piece de resistance: Dulce's brownie sundae—a decadent brownie

mounded with vanilla ice cream, sprinkled with candied pecans and crowned with a maraschino cherry. Ah, nostalgia. Another well-received dessert is an old-fashioned root beer float, evoking more childhood memories. After all, "dulce" means "sweet" in Spanish.

Dulce has applied for an alcohol license, and its handsome bar should be up and running by the first week of November. However, lack of wine and spirits has not harmed business. "Dulce is for dining," said Humphries. "Our focus is on the food, and the social lounge upstairs." Much of their luncheon business is carry-out and the majority of customers are Hill neighbors.

"We're taking things slowly, because we want to get it right," Humphries emphasized. To attract more foot traffic, employees take turns handing out flyers on Pennsylvania Avenue. Moreover, anyone displaying a receipt from Frager's gets \$2 off of lunch or dinner. On Wednesdays, customers with a 20003 zip code receive a 10 percent dinner discount.

After lunch, we visited Dulce's upstairs area, nicely appointed with comfy couches, high tables and chairs, and a jukebox. A large painting of the US Capitol looms over a pool table. In nice weather, look for sidewalk seating and an enclosed outdoor roof. The upstairs skylight has also been soundproofed to keep noise from bothering concerned neighbors.

The savvy Humphries couple brings an interesting background to their new endeavor. Nyika, who grew up in Queens, studied biology and psychology at the Virginia Commonwealth University while husband Clifton is a 21-year veteran with the District of Columbia Fire Department. The couple lives near Benning Road in Southeast.

Located at 1123 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Dulce is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; noon to 9 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sunday and Monday. Dulce also caters, offering items from the regular menu. Call 202-675-2005 or visit www.dulcedc.com. ★



Capital City church

Life HAPPENS HERE.

Sundays 10am
 Stuart-Hobson Middle School
 410 E St. NE
 (202) 234-3716 CapCityChurch.com

Beautiful YOU Empowering women to change their world.
www.BeautifulYouConference.com

Nursery and children's program available - ASL interpretation provided

You'll LOVE CHURCH!

Watch The Redskins with Your Friends

Sunday & Monday Night Football Game Time Specials

- 1/2 Priced Wings
- \$2 Bud Light Drafts



The Hill's Best Happy Hour 5 to 8 PM - Call for Specials



TUNNICLIFF'S TAVERN
The Gathering Place On The Hill...

Right next to Eastern Market Metro across from Eastern Market

Tunnicliff's Tavern
 222 7th Street SE
 Washington, D.C. 20003
www.tunnicliffstaverndc.com

Phone: 202-544-5680
Fax: 202-544-9630
Email: tunnicliffs@gmail.com