

# Foster's Grille Restaurant in Vienna, Virginia

By Pete Picadilly

Are you in the mood for a casual place, that offers juicy hamburgers and a cold beer? If you are in the Northern Virginia area, you might just want to consider stopping at a Foster's Grille. This franchise has multiple locations in this area, as well as a few scattered through the Southeastern United States. You can wear a pair of blue jeans and a t-shirt, or a suit during a lunch break, and feel right at home. Each of their restaurants has a "laid back approach" to dining, with a simple menu, and staffs that remind you of the crew from the television show "Cheers." The Vienna location has an ambiance, that will have you looking for Sam behind the bar.

Immediately upon walking into a Fosters Grille, you will notice hilarious signs throughout the place. A lot of them hint at the "beatings will continue until morale improves," or that the complaint department is a mouse trap. One of the funniest ones, that always seems to generate a belly full of laughter, is the sign that displays a picture of french fries on it. It reads " Achievement: Not everyone can be an astronaut." Large stuffed animals are prominently displayed on walls, and advertisements for local merchants are on the tables. There is a video game room for children at each location, that does not make enough noise to interfere with the rock music in the dining area.

Ordering food is done by walking up to the counter, and writing what you want on a computer generated form. The cashier will take your cash or credit card for payment, and bring you your order to the table when it is ready. The most famous item is the "Fosters Charburger," which is approximately 1/2 lb in weight. It is a good bargain at \$7.99, and comes with your choice of toppings that includes lettuce, tomato, cheese, bacon, onions, pickles, ketchup, and mustard. This price includes their delicious french fries, which are among the best around, and the "Charburger" is a grilled delight. You can choose to have it cooked from Medium to Extra Well done, and the meat and rolls are incredibly fresh.

Another outstanding selection is the Chicken Sandwich. It can be grilled or fried, with the same toppings as the "Charburger". It is the same price, and also comes with a serving of their fries. The grilled selection is fantastic, and the amount of chicken breast meat is generous for the price. It is quite flavorful, and having bacon on top, will add a level of smokiness to your meal. A similar item is the Oven Roasted Turkey Sandwich, which is economically priced at \$6.95, and is a good choice for a light snack. The "Famous Foster Hot Dog" will leave you stuffed, and with its chili toppings, you may need some antacids.

Are you a vegetarian? If so, you will be happy with the Garden Burger. It is made from Soy, and is just a bit smaller than the "Charburger," and costs a bit less at \$7.25. There offer salads as well, with the large house salad costing \$4.99. If you prefer salads with meat on them, consider trying the Grilled Chicken, which is a delightful selection at \$8.95. It might be the world's biggest salad, and you can decide between Ranch, Blue Cheese, Italian, Honey Mustard, or Caesar dressings. A small side salad is \$2.50.

Foster's is a child friendly establishment, and in addition to their video game area, little ones will enjoy their kids meals. The four meal selections for these are a Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Hamburger, Chicken Fingers, and a Hot Dog. Each of these meals comes with a side of French Fries and a drink, and they cost \$4.25. Drinks include sodas, bottled water, milkshakes, and lemonade. Adults will enjoy draft beer, that costs \$2.95 for a domestic and \$3.50 for imports. They have Fosters Lager, of course. All of the beers are good with their signature buffalo wings, which are a bit expensive at \$8.99 for 12, but they are among the best in the restaurant business. They have a lot of spice, and Foster's does not try to cut corners with small portions.

These restaurants are nothing fancy, but that is what makes them appealing. All of their food items are delicious, and on a hot summer day, try one of their thick milkshakes. This is a great place to take a family to, or to bring your buddies for some beers, while watching a football game on their big screen televisions. Their food is an outstanding value, and their staffs are dedicated to providing excellent customer service. They seemed to hire the right people to work at their locations, as each employee seems to be helpful with a good sense of humor. Foster's is a comfortable place to get away from work, or to enjoy a meal while out on the town.

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