

## Entertainment

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Foster's Grill

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If you're looking for no-frills, tasty American food, Foster's Grille may be up your alley. Recently opened at Turning Point Plaza in Urbana, this relaxed family restaurant has a tiny menu, but its offerings are big on flavor.

The less-than-20-item menu, which features choices such as a half-pound burger for \$7.99, chicken sandwich (grilled or fried) for \$8.95 and a homemade, can't-suck-it-through-the-straw-until-it-melts milkshake for \$3.50, may appeal to those who have a tough time with some popular restaurants that have pages and pages of options.

Just so you know, all the items on Foster's menu automatically come with an above-average helping of fries and a fountain drink.

The decor at Foster's matches its menu, with simple tables and booths, a few mute televisions, tuned mainly to news channels, and large windows that allow you to watch rush hour traffic go by through Urbana.

The lone piece of flair is a gutted race car that hangs upside down from the ceiling. It is paired with a wall-filling Texaco sign that looks like it came off the set of "The Dukes of Hazzard."



*Photo by Graham Cullen*

Staff photos by Graham Cullen The Olde Fashioned Charburger, a half-pound burger served with fries and a soda, is served at Foster's Grille. Located in the Turning Point Plaza in Urbana, Foster's Grille also offers a bar with flat panel televisions.

This being me and my wife's first time to a Foster's Grille (there are more than two dozen, most in Virginia), we were a bit confused about how things work.

Evidently, you order by filling out a form menu, checking off each item you want — it was a bit odd, but I had no worries whatsoever about my order being messed up.

We both got the Olde Fashioned Charburger with cheese. Keeping with the Foster's theme, these burgers are straight from the backyard barbecue. They offer only basic topping choices (no jalapenos or onion straws on these beefy patties).

The burgers are all well done and quite flavorful, crispy on the outside and juicy inside. They were fresh and hot and served in a red mesh basket next to a helping of seasoned French fries.

My wife said a couple of times that the fries were seasoned to perfection, and with more than just good old salt.

The milkshakes — we got vanilla and chocolate — were delicious. Not too sweet and, as we said earlier, quite thick. They were a perfect foil to our spicy wings. The wings come with a choice of bleu cheese or ranch dressing. We got both and must say the ranch was excellent, creamy and bursting with flavor.

If your half-pound burger doesn't quite fill you up, Foster's offers cookies and cake. It might not be bad to take a trip just for an oversized chocolate chip cookie and milkshake.

Vegetarians have a couple of options, with a house salad and garden burger, but this is definitely a place for carnivores.

Draft imported and domestic beer is available and would go well with the wings during happy hour, when they are 40 cents apiece rather than the usual 55 cents. During happy hour, from 4 to 7 p.m., domestic beers are \$1.75 and premium beers are \$2.75.

The restaurant does its part to keep it family-friendly, offering a limited children's menu with items such as grilled cheese, chicken fingers, a 4-ounce burger and a hot dog.

Everything on the menu is available for carry-out, so if you want lunch on the go, their burgers and oven-roasted sandwiches are good alternatives to fast food. You may pay a tad bit more, but your tastebuds will thank you.