

West Enders Friday Sept 1995

● food ● food

by John Crawford

The charm is still intact

THE TEAHOUSE RESTAURANT

Ferguson Point, Stanley Park

669-3281

Like a true Vancouverite I grabbed every opportunity that our last sunny respite gave us to dine outdoors, on my own deck at home, and at some of our most beautiful patio locations. In a sense, The Teahouse in Stanley Park fits both categories because it was the first restaurant that I dined at when I first came to Vancouver. It was a more simple affair then, run by the Barazzoul family, and lived in upstairs by good friends. I remember that skunks were always a main topic of conversation, and Sunday wedding parties a tradition. On quiet days, the whole family and friends like me would take over the main dining room and enjoy Emilio Barazzoul's great cooking. What a spot to eat, let alone live!

Rumour has it that the skunks are still around, they know a good thing when they see it. Best of all, the character of the old Teahouse remains too. The charm is still intact, the relationship with the beauty of the park, and the quiet. Add to this a superb menu and great staff. Each of those categories has had some new input since Chef Ralf Dauns joined the staff in February bringing some of his own creative

cuisine to blend with the traditional Teahouse dishes.

I began my patio dinner with a dangerous portion of Manoucher bread, absolutely fantastic with light Tuscan-like crust and soft potato based texture inside (they sell it too! ... I took two home). Then I tried one of Chef Dauns new appetizers, local goat cheese baked with cilantro and served on a tomato coulis. It was very delicate, and that also best describes another new entree that I tried, orange rougy. Baked with olive oil and a chervil apricot sauce, it was rich, but not over sweet ... perfect for a warm summer evening. I didn't even have to exert myself, it just melted in my mouth.

There are obviously some tasty new additions to the menu, and obvious too was the common sense to retain the ever popular items like rack of lamb, carrot soup and stuffed mushroom caps. Vegetarian dishes and lighter entrees are also well represented, along with many pasta creations.

For West Enders, I suggest the Teahouse as a pleasant destination after a nice walk. For those crossing the Lions Gate, I can't think of a better way to enjoy the early evening to wait for work traffic to thin out.