

Pacific Grove's Red House Cafe -- a gem for breakfast, lunch or dinner

PACIFIC GROVE RESTAURANT | MAY 17, 2011 | BY: THERESA WOOLER |



Original watercolor by Thomas A. Barber, 1999

Credits: Red House Cafe, Pacific Grove

As charming as its name, **The Red House Cafe** in Pacific Grove wraps up fresh, flavorful food and attentive service in one quaint package.

Chef-owners Chris D'Amelio and Laura Medina-D'Amelio renovated the red Victorian house and opened the restaurant doors in 1996 with the mission of creating a dining experience that would taste and feel just like coming into their home for a meal.

Drawing upon a rich heritage of celebrating food and family, this husband and wife team offers patrons their well-loved family recipes, combined with dishes inspired by local, seasonal abundance. The cottage-like decor is warm and inviting from its shiny wooden floors to tidy rows of tea pots and pottery, and on warm days, visitors spill onto the bistro tables on the covered front porch.

Albeit small, Red House Cafe churns out breakfast, lunch

and dinner at a steady clip on Tuesdays through Sundays. (The restaurant may be open on Mondays in the near future). All dishes are made from scratch in the restaurant, including soup made fresh each day and meats roasted daily. Local bakeries deliver fresh-baked bread every day, too.

Mornings at Red House Cafe buzz with activity with locals and tourists enjoying some of the breakfast favorites, such as cinnamon raisin brioche french toast with orange marmalade butter, a special house frittata with spinach and artichoke hearts, or granola and berries. Of course, Red House Cafe serves brewed coffee, steaming espresso drinks in bowl-like mugs, and a selection of European teas.

In addition to fresh soup and salads, the luncheon menu entices patrons with appetizing sandwich combinations on freshly-baked bread, such as the portobello mushroom sandwich with goat cheese and basil, or the pork tenderloin on rosemary focaccia bread with sage aioli. Other favorites include dungeness crab cakes on mixed greens, and calamari steak sandwich or salad.

The dinner menu offers melt-in-your-mouth salads and small plates, such as the spinach salad with honey poached pears, candied pecans and crumbled bleu cheese, or the toasted camembert cheese with port wine and a fig reduction. Entrees include [seafood](http://www.examiner.com/topic/seafood) (<http://www.examiner.com/topic/seafood>) choices such as a seafood penne pasta, salmon, or other fish specials, as well as roasted chicken, grilled lamb filets, and filet mignon – served with accompanying vegetable sides. The wine selections includes Monterey and California wines, available by the bottle or glass.

Red House Cafe's oatmeal-apricot-pecan cookies have become famous and are even packaged and mailed, on request. Three local pastry chefs contribute to the other dessert selections including coconut creme pie, dutch crumble apple pie and chocolate cake.

With their vision and passion for food, the D'Amelio's have successfully achieved a home-like restaurant – to their guests delight.

Red House Cafe

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Theresa Wooler, Monterey Bay Restaurant Examiner

Theresa Wooler has made a hobby out of finding new restaurant gems in her Monterey area, and trying favorite recipes in her own kitchen. A former PR executive and active mom of three, Theresa enjoys the local good eats enhanced by farm-fresh fruits and vegetables and seafood from the Monterey Bay...