

The III Forks Signature Martini is a masterpiece!

June 14, 2010 Miami Bars Examiner Steve Cabeza



I do a weekly segment (the "Head's Up" Report) for *the Food for Thought Radio Show*, and this week the fine folks at t.b.a. (<u>the buzz</u> <u>agency</u>) set up a tasting for me at <u>III</u> <u>Forks Steakhouse</u> at the Village of Gulfstream (thanks

Julie!), and little did I know the joy that was in store!

My ill-advised preconception of III Forks was that I would probably experience a fabulous meal at what amounts to another great steakhouse in a market choc-full of great places to eat. I figured it would be 5-star service, outstanding food, served a-la-carte, all at a high price point that would probably not justify the expense in my mind. I also assumed it would be pretentious, and that the drinks would match South Beach in cost and not be nearly as imaginative in nature.

Pretention does not exist at III Forks, nor does arrogance. No, it's more like confident and fun-loving cockiness. The service was 5-star, thanks Joanne!. The food was outstanding. It was indeed a-la-carte. But there was a decided atmosphere of "fun" and controlled-enjoyment, mixed with

austere and conservative mischief in the air which is not something you find at high-end steakhouses. The price was better than fair (steaks from \$19.95 to \$39.95), and the inspired martini selection (12 total) will have me coming back often.

The III Forks Signature is an absolute work of art. 3 Olives Grape Vodka, sour mix, Grape Pucker, and Sprite, served in a frosted martini glass (classy and inspired touch!) with three tasty, frozen grapes bobbing joyfully around inside. This drink is an instant masterpiece—great job Karen!— especially at only \$10 bucks!

The Mile High Key Lime Pie Martini sounds irresistible with muddled limes, Stoli Vanilla, and a splash of cream for \$12 bucks! And the Espresso Delight too, with Stoli Vanilla, espresso, Baileys Irish Cream, Crème De Cacao, and Frangelico. All 12 specialty martinis on the menu are priced from \$10 to \$12 bucks, this is most definitely not South Beach. Thanks Tommy!

Happy Hour is daily from 4 – 7P and everything is \$2 bucks off plus they have \$5 Russian Standard Vodka drinks and a \$5 Sommelier's pick-of-theday wine selection. The day I was there the pick was Columbia Crest.

III Forks is located at the <u>Village at Gulfstream</u>, 501 Silks Run, Suite 1130, Hallandale Beach, FL, 33009. (954) 457-3920.

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