

Mystery Diners Restaurant Categories

- Fine Dining

The fine dining category is our top restaurant category; consequently our expectations are the highest. This category is characterized by a more sophisticated and creative menu. We would expect all menu selections to be prepared on-site from top quality fresh ingredients. Food should be presented in an attractive and appetizing manner. We expect a good selection of fine wines, a more sophisticated ambience, and a very knowledgeable and well trained staff. We also expect to see higher prices for the added value. Portions should be adequate for most diners, consistent with the pricing, and comparable with other restaurants in the same category.

...a typical beverage is probably fine wine!

- Family Dining

This is our somewhat upscale dining category, but one where the whole family is comfortable. The menu is usually less sophisticated and familiar to most diners ...typical of what a good cook would routinely prepare at home. We expect most menu items to be prepared on-site from good quality ingredients and well presented. We expect an attractive comfortable décor consistent with the restaurant's theme. Service should be courteous and prompt. Portions should be consistent with pricing. We typically, but not always, see special entrees for children.

...a typical beverage is probably iced tea or a glass of house wine!

- Casual Dining

Menus are typically less comprehensive. They include familiar comfort foods such as sandwiches and burgers, pizza, chicken wings, onion rings, fries or BBQ. These restaurants are frequently theme based. The décor is usually lively, comfortable, and should be consistent with the restaurant's theme. We expect some of the menu selections to be prepared off-site by food suppliers ...such as fries. Service should be courteous and very prompt. Portions are typically large, but should always be consistent with pricing.

...a typical beverage is likely to be a beer!

Restaurants sometimes share characteristics of more than one category ...so we use our best judgement. We recognize others could make a different call.

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