

By Robin Mines

One thing's for sure; any restaurant that can survive 14 years on the mean streets of Davie can't be getting by on good looks and charm alone.

Cafe Luxy server Blake Lazenby (who has been in the business 21 years, so he oughta know) has a pretty good idea as to just what's behind his employer's uncommon longevity.

"Portion size," he says. "At dinner, honestly, I pack everyone's food (for them to take home). and if I don't, it means they're, like, truck drivers or something." It's a simple set-up: pasta pasta, and more pasta: 33 different combinations in all, served with caesar salad and a couple of slices of garlic bread for one all-inclusive price. And the price is right:\$8.95 for your nuts and bolts Spaghetti Bolognese



at dinnertime to \$15.95 for Linguine con Brandy-shrimp, scallops and mussels with a light tomato brandy sauce, with most of the pennes, linguines and lasagnas falling in the \$10-\$12 range. At lunch, a smaller plate is \$5.95 for the daily special,\$6.98 and up for anything that's on the regular menu.

Nothing much has changed since Cafe Luxy opened its door a decade and a half ago. the decor is now wood toned and slightly bar and grillish (a distinct improvement over the early '90s pastel blandness),

but the menu is the same as it's always been, give or take a sauce or two, because the regulars would"nt have it any other way.

"I've worked in a lot of places," Blake declares, "and this place is clean. I mean, clean. Everything the floors, the bar is being cleaned constantly. And the owners don't just stand around telling us what to do. They're down on their hands and knees, scrubbing."

One of their most popular pastas is the Tortellini Fiorentina, if you like oven-browned cheese on top, this is your bambino, with an extra dose of crumbly feta and some cooked spinach

folded in with the creamy tomato sauce to make your biceps bulge like Popeye's. Also flying out of the kitchen: the Lasagna supreme and the Canneloni Napoletana just about as traditionally Italian as you can get.

As far as their busy week end brunches go, Blake has one complaint. "Honestly, I wish they'd put the prices up." Two eggs, your choice of bacon, sausage or black forest ham, toast and home fries is \$4.98.

So the line-up around the bar because we have deuces. We up and turn 'u out fast, make them open at of nine.

The human t however, are telling Blake is one elderly comes in at f every day for coffee and gl water with a : staff treat him affection.

"It's nice that taking care o says quietly. it's not just pr that has mad such a West Cafe Luxy is 1235 Davie, (

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