

THURSDAY 25 MARCH 2010

POT LUCK

THE DUTCH DELIGHT

Photos: Dinesh Sharma

There's a Dutch word called 'gezellig' which means cosy, enjoyable and fun. The Dutch insist that there is no single-word equivalent in any other language. Because the word exists in Dutch, the people of the Netherlands strive to create spaces where friends can have a gezellig time over a cup of coffee. And that is what Bagel's Café is all about - it's a cheery, bright, cosy place where you and your friends can have a gezellig time. And yes, it is owned by a young Dutch lady.

There aren't too many places in Delhi currently that do bagels, but this supposed-to-be-chewy bun-like bread that is a mainstay of the Jewish community is what comprises most of the menu in Bagel's Café. Because bagels have dough that is required to be dunked in boiling water and then baked, it is for specialists only. Their hot bath gives them a unique texture and many Jewish delicatessens in New York, for example, top their bagels with sesame seeds or grains of sea salt.

Bagel's Café goes one better: they top some of their bagels with the sprinkles that the Netherlands is so famous for. They fill them with cream cheese (Rs 110), peanut butter (Rs 90), crunchy, irreproachably fresh salad or ham and cheese (Rs

170). You don't even have to have a mere bagel. If you're in Bagel's Café for lunch, you can order a Sausage or Chicken Stew (Rs 250) which is served with a bagel.

The bagels are made from regular white flour, whole wheat, multi grain and a couple of other options too. You



Bagel's Café

TIMES FOOD GUIDE
Marryam H Reshii



Omelette with ham



Carrot Cake

BAGEL'S CAFÉ
D 143, Shopping Mall, Arjun Marg,
DLF City Phase 1, Gurgaon
Tel: 0124-4284742
Credit cards accepted; no alcohol served
Open from 9 am - 10 pm
Meal for two: Rs 800

RATINGS
Food: 3.50
Service: 3.00
Décor: 3.50

(5) Excellent (4) Very good
(3) Good (2) Average (1) Poor

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can opt for them fresh or lightly toasted, which serves to bring out the texture of the bagel. It is the fillings in Bagel's Café that stand more than the quality of the bagels. The owner has tried hard to provide a premium product - the cream cheese, peanut butter, ham, cheese and tuna are all imported and a seemingly inconsequential ingredient like the sprinkles are imported all the way from Netherlands.

Good and soul satisfying as the food is (there's a small section of pasta as something of an also-ran) it pales in comparison to the cheerful ambience and service. It is a small piece of Europe in the capital: the waiter will come to the table to take your order and then again to serve you. In between, there's no sign of the staff waiting to ask you how the food is (my pet hate) or trying to upsell or talk you into ordering another drink or another dish.

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