



I ♥ Burgers' Chocolate Thunder shake, I ♥ Bloody Mary, and Blueberry Macadamia Nut Panshake.  
PHOTO BY JIM K. DECKER

## Shimmy Shimmy Shakes

A milkshake always brings Vices<sup>2</sup> to the yard, especially when they're adult versions such as those served at I♥(Love) Burgers. To be clear, it's not "I 'heart' Burgers" as Vices<sup>2</sup> has been fond of calling it since the restaurant opened at The Palazzo earlier this year.

The restaurant may be a little hard to locate if you're not familiar with the second floor of The Shoppes at The Palazzo, but don't get distracted by Christian Louboutin or Double Helix Wine Bar and you'll find it, tucked away into a corner, buzzing with activity. The 120-seat restaurant is a round, open room with wood trim, and giant mushroom statuesque sculptures in the middle. The kitchen itself is open as well, so you can watch the cooks line up orders that seemingly never stop.

And the kitchen at I♥ Burgers really doesn't ever stop. Our first order comes from what they foresee as the "(soon-to-be) biggest fry menu in Las Vegas." Deep fried pickles come sliced thin, lengthwise, rather than in chip form as they're usually served at other places. They're fried nicely and lightly, with the bite and tanginess of the pickle still intact. Mac and cheese bites were also done well. A crunchy, well-seasoned crust encased creamy macaroni and cheese, and the macaroni still had a little bit of al dente to them, so as to not create a gummy mess.

The burgers on the menu are an assortment of signature burgers with traditional Angus and sirloin beef patties, but also has choices of ahi tuna, ground turkey and free-range chicken breast. Guests also can customize their own burgers from a varied selection of toppings, including a fried egg, summer truffles and Asian cabbage slaw. We opted for the Parm Burger, made with eggplant parmesan on an beautiful brioche bun, and our dining companion dug into the healthy Oregon Trail, a bison burger topped with aged Boxing cheddar, roasted garlic aioli, lettuce and beefsteak tomato on a whole wheat bun.

There are 15 beers on tap, which is what Vices<sup>2</sup> usually likes to pair with her burgers, but we wanted to get our liquid fill another way: spiked milkshakes. We had heard rumors of the signature Blueberry Panshake, made with straight up blueberry pancakes, maple syrup, ice cream and milk. We went one step further with the Blueberry Macadamia Nut Muffin, which takes the aforementioned Blueberry Panshake and makes it grow up with the addition of Tru Vanilla Vodka and Macadamia Nut Liqueur. The spiked concoction reminded Vices<sup>2</sup> of a really boozy breakfast, except in liquid form. The shake goes down smooth, easy and happily, without being too sweet, and the aeration from being blended gives the illusion of the fluffiness of a pancake.

Our second shake, was the other natural choice for us: Chocolate Thunder, a triple chocolate shake enhanced with Phillips Union Cherry Whiskey and Mozart Chocolate Liqueur. We could see how this drink might be dangerous in cocktail form; the spirits blend in nicely to the chocolate shake itself, if not imparting a little smokiness and fruitiness from the whiskey.

Sipping our way through these milkshakes, we wished we had saved room for others, such as The Buzz, a coffee bean milkshake sure to perk you up, and Twisted Caramel Corn, made with real buttered popcorn and homemade caramel, treated with Butterscotch Schnapps and XZO Vodka. I♥ Burgers' creative, better-than-yours shakes make it easy to see why so many end up in The Palazzo's yard. □



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