

Espetus Churrascaria

Vegetarians need not apply.

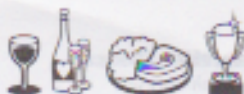
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1686 Market St., San Francisco 94102

(at Gough St.)

Phone (415) 552-8792

www.espetus.com



CATEGORY Very hip Brazilian steakhouse

HOURS Mon-Thurs: 11:30 AM-3 PM; 5 PM-10 PM

Fri: 11:30 AM-3 PM; 5 PM-11 PM

Sat: Noon-3 PM; 5 PM-11 PM

Sun: Noon-9 PM

GETTING THERE Street and metered parking are reasonably easy to find.

PAYMENT

POPULAR DISH Well, there's really only one option. There are no menus or anything, you just get the salad bar access (with beans, fish, rice, salad, deviled eggs, tomatoes and mozzarella) and the churrascaria, which is a merry-go-round of roast meats, including chicken hearts, prime rib, tenderloin, grilled shrimp, and chicken wrapped with bacon. Oh, yeah, and they're served to you on swords by cute waiters. A small disc on the table can be turned to green "Bring it on," or red "I surrender."

DRINKS The caipirinha, the national drink of Brazil, is a must-try and made properly here. Otherwise, their wine selection is extensive and the staff helpful.

SEATING Although I wouldn't call it particularly good for

large groups, many of them seem to end up in this practically bowling alley shaped restaurant. It's medium sized, with probably 25 tables. Not romantic, but lots of couples there.

AMBIENCE/CLIENTELE Clientele seems to be many Brazilians in for a taste of their home country's food, birthday gatherings, dates, and adventurous diners. The restaurant is warmly lit and inviting given the slightly shady atmosphere of the Market/Gough location. The food is amazing—as close as I have ever come to an authentic Brazilian churrascaria in the U.S. Since it's all you can eat, unless you are someone with an intense amount of self-discipline, expect to be stuffed full to bursting and slightly drunk when you leave here. Clientele is a mix of people dressed up for a special occasion and those who just stopped by for a bite (or 97 bites, if you will.) It's a bit loud, but sounds more festive than obnoxious. The entire restaurant is filled with the amazing smells of roasted meat and as soon as you walk in your mouth starts to water.

EXTRAS/NOTES Cute bartender and waiters in traditional Brazilian clothing. They look like swashbucklers, complete with the swords that they serve the meat on. The Brazilian community in San Francisco seems to congregate here.

—Catherine Wargo