

Tillman's Roadhouse

By Celestina Phillips

Frito pie made with venison chili, blood orange margaritas, and Lynyrd Skynyrd on the overhead speakers combine for a rocking fun time at West 7th's new Tillman's Roadhouse restaurant. Joining us from Oak Cliff, where the original is located, Tillman's will easily become the new go-to spot for special occasion dining, patio lounging, and apps and drinks before a night out in Fort Worth.

Smack in the middle of the flashy new West 7th developments, the restaurant offers classic Texas favorites prepped gourmet-style. For example, the house burger is made with sirloin-foie gras and paired with truffled goat cheese tater tots. The venison chili features chunky tomatoes, white cheddar cheese, and scallion greens plated with an

open bag of Fritos. S'mores, featuring house-made maple-, orange-, and coffee-flavored marshmallows, are assembled tableside over an open flame. Everything is served by waiters wearing plaid pearl-snap shirts, jeans, and cowboy boots, reminding you of Tillman's touted "come-as-you-are" environment.

If you're as impressed with the décor as we were, note that the vintage chandeliers, elegant damask-print walls, and cabin-like stacked logs above the bar were all the work of designer and Tarrant County native Rob Dailey. Probably not the best spot to catch a big game, Tillman's has three medium-sized flat screen TVs that hang amid a wall of pretty pictures. All are visible from only one end of the bar. However, the music played in the restaurant is a surprising perk. At dinner, we found ourselves quietly singing along to Foreigner, Tom Petty,



Al Green, and even Boy George. Maybe it was the salted margaritas that had been hit with a good dose of Patrón.

Regarding the service, waiters were nothing but nice, although our appetizer ordered at the bar was forgotten. But the sweet potato, parmesan, and purple potato trio of fries served with house-made catsup and horseradish pickle mayo were well worth the wait by the time they arrived to our dinner table. Enough to easily feed four, the extras went home in to-go boxes.

Make reservations early, like at least a few days before, especially if you're hoping to visit on a Friday or Saturday

night. Otherwise you can arrive before dinner is served at 5:30 p.m., and the hostesses will do their best to get you in. Like we said, Tillman's is Fort Worth's newest go-to spot.

Tillman's Roadhouse
2933 Crockett St. at West 7th
817-850-9255
www.tillmansroadhouse.com
Open Monday - Thursday 11 am - 11 pm
Friday and Saturday 11 am - 2 am
(if the bar is full)
Sunday 10:30 am - 11 pm
Serving lunch, dinner and "blunch"
on Saturday and Sunday
Trio of Fries \$9, The Lunch Burger
\$17, Venison Frito Pie \$17, Table-
side S'mores for two or more \$14,
Chipotle BBQ Baby Back Ribs \$23



YOU GOTTA TRY THIS



The Movie Tavern at West 7th is open and serving up great food and flicks. A must-have from the menu is the Monte Cristo Wrap (\$8.50). Stuffed with hearty portions of ham, turkey, and Swiss cheese, the wrap is fried until golden brown, sprinkled with powdered sugar, and served with raspberry jam. Part confection, part sandwich, the concoction is a symphony of sweet and sour. Coupled with a side of fries and an ice-cold beer or beverage of your choice, the Monte Cristo is a surefire award-winner. Don't have time for a movie? The Movie Tavern at West 7th also has a standalone dining room that doesn't have any silver screens but lots of TVs.

Monte Cristo Wrap • \$8.50 @ Movie Tavern at West 7th • 2872 Crockett St.
682-503-7100 • movietavern.com