



CHRISTOPHER HUFF | THE HERALD

The “Cheeseburger in Paradise” drink is a specialty at the restaurant, Cheeseburger in Paradise.

Cheeseburger in Paradise

BY CHRISTOPHER HUFF
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There is a dreaded time for a movie critic—the hours between the last matinee and the first evening show. It seems that no matter how many theaters are in town, if you miss the last 5 o'clock show, you've got two hours to waste before the beginning of the next movie.

Fortunately, I write this column in addition to the entertainment one, and a couple of spare hours is the opportunity to explore a new “place to be.”

I had a couple ideas in my head, but after considering time and location, I ended up on King's Highway and Cheeseburger in Paradise started playing on my iPod.

What a brilliant idea, and it was only a few blocks away, on the 72nd block in Myrtle Beach.

There are theme restaurants all over the place, but it appears that those named after Jimmy Buffet songs really go for broke. The inside of Cheeseburger is all Caribbean chic, with bamboo, thatched roofs and other nice touches. I felt warmer already.

Central to the dining room is an island-shaped bar, well stocked with rums, daiquiris and other libations. Booths lined all the walls and tall tables were scattered about.

A small stage, of rough-hewn wood like a pier, is set against the wall and plays host to weekend entertainers. Friday nights feature Kevin Sheils, while Saturday's entertainment varies, with Audio Visual, Steve McDowell, and Act 2 as regular acts.

Being in Cheeseburger in Paradise, you know I had to have a burger, and they have a great selection. I was tempted by the “not too particular, not too pressed burger” featuring Velveeta cheese and salsa ketchup. The Baja burger with sour cream and jalapenos was also interesting, but when my waiter told me about the burger of the day, Cajun spiced with Swiss cheese and Asian mayo, my choice was made.

My waiter also informed me that state laws had changed, and I could get my burger cooked to my tastes. I almost melted. No more cinder blocks; welcome back that red and juicy medium rare.

I also ordered the Blackbeard's Shrimp from the appetizer menu, and that turned out to be one of the best moves I made. This was the best grilled shrimp I ever tasted, without a doubt. In addition, it was served with some of that Asian mayo for dipping.

I had to have one of their fancy boat drinks. So, I asked my friendly neighborhood bartender, Natasha, what was the best fancy, frozen, over-the-top drink they had.

Without blinking, she said, “The Cheeseburger in Paradise.”

Well, maybe not the most original name in the place, but it was the best frozen drink I have ever had. First off, it was served in a giant martini-style pitcher (Can you call something that large a glass?), and the price was surprisingly reasonable.

Made with layers of Parrot Bay Rum Piña Colada, Myers' Rum Runner, Margaritaville Margarita and Strawberry Daiquiri, it is topped with a half-orange “island” with a candy cheeseburger lounging under an umbrella while a “sea plane” of banana and pineapple floats off shore.

Stunningly large and amazingly tasty, this drink is a mini vacation in and of itself.

With a belly full of wonderful shrimp, a great burger and a sweet drink, I was well prepared to catch that evening movie.

Cheeseburger in Paradise is definitely a place to be for your carnivorous (and other) habits.

Christopher Huff is an entertainment reporter. You can reach him concerning information about the Entertainment page at chuff@thelocalnewspaper.com.