



# Out to Munch at Liliana's

By Shannon Payette Seip

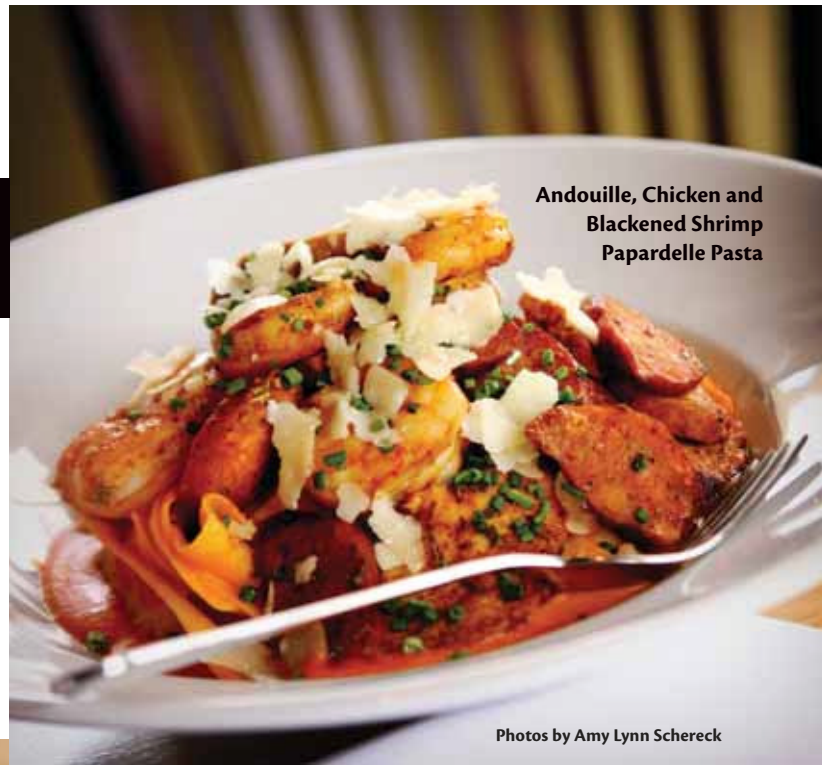
On a business trip to New Orleans four years ago, I was enjoying a sunny morning outside at Café du Monde, drinking my chicory coffee and savoring its world-famous beignets. My delight turned to horror, however, when a pigeon swiped one of my beignets, leaving me with just powdered sugar on my fingers and not a crumb to eat.

On our recent outing to Liliana's, Fitchburg's new Cajun restaurant, I was determined not to let anyone – feathered or otherwise – stand between me and my New Orleans dining experience.

Named after the owner's young daughter, Liliana's is housed in an unassuming building that looks much like a dental office. Once inside, however, it's like you stepped foot in the French Quarter, complete with live jazz, a fountain, coach lanterns and the smell of Cajun spices.

We kicked off the party with Okra Fritters (\$6). The fried puffs look to have the potential to weigh you down, but are light and wonderfully seasoned. Roger and I had a stare-down to determine who would eat the last one. The Spinach Salad (\$7) showcased large chunks of smoky warm bacon, blackened chicken and a delicious apricot-mustard vinaigrette.

I ordered the Andouille, Chicken and Blackened Shrimp Papardelle Pasta (\$16). The red-pepper cream sauce had a fantastic spicy kick, which kept me on the edge of my seat. The pasta was lightly coated



Andouille, Chicken and Blackened Shrimp Papardelle Pasta

Photos by Amy Lynn Schreck



Beignets

with sauce so as not to detract from the ingredients. I only wish it came with more shrimp.

Roger opted for the Jambalaya (\$16). The zesty tomato base provided an excellent foundation for the fresh vegetables. The sausage was more smoky than spicy, and was overall a hit.

The Beignets (\$7) were big, light and as delicious as I remember from the one bite I experienced years ago before the pigeon snagged it.

I highly recommend reservations to Liliana's. The place

was packed. The service was a little slow, but extremely friendly. And not a bird in sight.



Madison-based writer Shannon Payette Seip is also the co-author of the syndicated column *Cinematters*.



## Liliana's

2951 Triverton Pike, Fitchburg • 442-4444

Hours: Lunch 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday-Saturday;

Dinner: 5-9 p.m. every day

Major credit cards accepted • Wheelchair accessible

[www.lilianasrestaurant.com](http://www.lilianasrestaurant.com)