

Ned Ludd's Secret Lunch

Since opening at the tail end of 2008, a year in business has solidified Ned Ludd as a truly "Portland-style" restaurant. In an intimate room that could double as a lumberjack's cabin, the menu balances garden-fresh vegetable dishes with European meat preparations. A monstrous black smoker on the front patio welcomes with the aroma of sweet spices that permeate inside, where a wood burning brick oven serves as the dining room's focal point. The warmth of the space and affordability—entrée prices hover in the \$15 range—make Ned Ludd an attractive dinner house, but do you know they do lunch?

Between 11am and 3pm, Thursday through Monday, co-owners Jason French and Ben Meyer are busy prepping for dinner service. But during these midday hours, they offer an under-the-radar menu of lunch offerings that is too good to keep secret. From a house-smoked pastrami open-face sandwich to mac n' mornay, with a smattering of egg options thrown into the mix, consider it weekend brunch without the wait...for now.

Last Sunday, when I stopped in after checking out the menu online, my anticipation for their "Melly Pork Sandwich" listed on the website was met with a surprise. They had run out of one of the ingredients to make the sandwich but improvised and transformed the dish into a rustic pork hash of Brussels sprouts, squash, and potatoes topped with a sunny-side-up egg and spicy harissa. I guess mid-service changes are easy when your produce comes from the community garden behind the restaurant.

We ordered the housemade boudin blanc sausage nestled into a silky root vegetable purée with sweet and tangy stewed cabbage on the side. Their meat pie filled with shredded beef stewed in red wine paired well with the Terminal Gravity Breakfast Porter—a great way to start the day. I'll certainly hurry back to try more from the daily-changing lunch menu while there are plenty of open tables, which I'm sure won't be for long.

Ned Ludd
3925 NE MLK Jr. Blvd.
Portland, OR 97212
503 288 6900
nedluddpdx.com