



What's For Dinner?

The power of food is the ability to bring people together in a communal sense. When we join together for a meal we bring our stories, our shared experiences and our differences. It is through these simple interactions that What's for Dinner? (W4D?) was begun. The pleasure of sharing food together becomes a common language and when Foodies can participate in a dining experience at a local restaurant make friends and feel more connected to our city.

The first time that you find yourself at a W4D? you will notice that we try to have a large communal table. Your initial reaction might be something like mild shock because you are used to being seated at our own table and not interacting with anyone other than members of our own party and the servers. Some people find it to be uncomfortable, eating a meal while seated with strangers, while others enjoy the experience. Relax, you are with others who enjoy food as much as you!

It is pretty simple concept and one that is gaining traction among South Bend Foodies friends. We meet around 5:30-45pm and usually order by 6:00pm. During the course of the meal, we just get to know each other and talk FOOD. Don't be surprised to see food being shared with each other. I feel that this elevates the dining experience.

I enjoy the fact that we have a diverse group of individuals who attend W4D?. We share one common thread...food and dining out at local restaurants. Some of our Foodie Friends have spouses, partners or friends who work odd hours, travel or they are not interested in foodie stuff. Now these individuals have a group to meet with and try new restaurants and not dine alone.

South Bend Foodies began these dining adventures in April 2010. The attendance is varied but we have had as little as three and have had over 20 attend. The smaller groups tend to happen when we head out of the South Bend/Mishawaka/Elkhart area. We believe in the experience of trying something different and understand that not everyone is able to travel to the South Bend area so W4D? goes to them. We TRY to keep our dinners short and sweet due to drive times and we know time is precious!

Restaurants:

1. We need to make sure that you can handle separate checks;
2. Please make sure that you have the appropriate amount of servers for our reserved count of attendees. We have seen restaurants suffer due to inadequate table staffing.
3. We would appreciate complimentary appetizers for our group as well.
4. We like to share food so extra small plates and silverware are nice to have on the table.
5. As dining guests, we like to hear from the owners and chef as well on the history of the restaurant and the style of food on the menu. Please make sure someone is available.

July – Lucchese’s Italian Restaurant

June – Matuba Japanese Restaurant

May – The Summit Club

April – Kelly Jae’s Café ONE YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

March – Trio’s Restaurant and Jazz Club

February – Sangrias Wine Bar

January – The Carriage House

December – Main St. Grille

November – Ciao’s Italian Restaurant

October – Wheatberry

September – The Mark Dine & Tap (no
review-too new)

August – Kelly Jae’s Café

July – 523 Tap and Grill

June – Riverfront Cafe

May – Oliva’s Bar & Restaurant

April – Bistro 933