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Ely's ... just right for evening out

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Stuffed shrimp and a 22-ounce USDA prime rib-eye steak is one of the popular menu items at Ely's Restaurant & Bar in Olde Towne Ridgeland. / The Clarion-Ledger

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One evening one of my BFFs and I decided to have a girl's night out. We went to one bar, which was empty and slightly boring, and then to another, which was crowded and noisy. We could barely see the bartender, let alone carry on a conversation or order a drink.

By this point, we were thinking we'd never find the "Goldilocks" solution – just right – before closing time, and we both wanted to catch up over a glass of wine and some appetizers. Then we hit Ely's Restaurant & Bar in the Olde Towne area of Ridgeland.

Fare Facts

Ely's Restaurant & Bar

Bingo.

A couple of glasses of wine – a chardonnay



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115 W. Jackson St., Suite E upstairs
 Ridgeland
 (601) 605-6359
Hours: Monday-Saturday, opening at 4 p.m.
Dress code: Not a bad idea to dress up a little, but coats and ties are not required. Still, this is pretty fancy-shmancy.
Price range: Expensive, but you get what you pay for. Two could have a steak dinner for about \$100.
Reservations: May be made online at www.elysrestaurant.com.

for me and a malbec for my BFF – and a bowl of crawfish and shrimp dip (\$9.95) and we got to dish on everything from work to kids to men.

The conversation was good enough that we still do our girls' nights on occasion, and the dip and wine were good enough that Ely's is still on my short list of favorite fine dining establishments in the metro area.

The steaks will get your attention ... they're prime, aged and can pair up with shrimp, crawfish, scallops, crab cakes or jumbo lump crabmeat. Not that the seafood and chicken choices are slouches, mind you. Sweet chili glazed salmon, blackened yellowfin tuna, shrimp and grits, chicken Florentine ... if beef isn't what's for dinner, there are other options to be had.

– Annie Oeth

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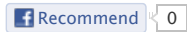
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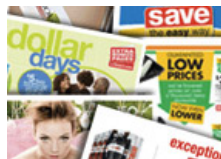
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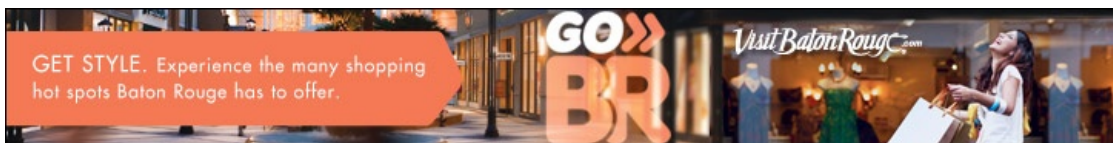
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