

BOOTH TO BELLY

We went to Chili's to see what's up

By Evan Carlson and Makenna Overturf



Booth seating, fountain drinks in large plastic mugs, and an excessive amount of grease all have one thing in common: they are staple parts of the underrated chain restaurant, Chili's. Chili's has been filling families' stomachs since 1975, but it does not get the hype it deserves. Gone are the days of screaming babies in a booster seat and sitting in an oddly sticky chair, as drive-throughs and Doordash are so much easier, but what is lost when we choose to stay in our cars? We went to Chili's to try the most popular items and decide whether or not sitting down is worthwhile.



First was a slightly spicy Southwestern Queso that set the mood of the meal. It came with a heap of chips that could be an appetizer themselves. It was perfectly seasoned and deliciously cheesy. There was enough queso for all three of us to share and dip, which other restaurants can not seem to grasp. Additionally, the queso came with surprise salsa that was so fresh it tasted like a garden in our mouths. Often, quesos are too runny, like dipping a chip into milk, but Chili's has the perfect consistency for our dipping pleasure. Appetizers usually fall short compared to their main dish counterparts, but at Chili's the appetizers are always the star. Even after we felt like we couldn't eat anymore, we found ourselves dipping back into the queso.



Next, we ordered the infamous triple dipper. We chose to get the fried mozzarella because that has been getting the most buzz online. When we first saw this on the internet, we thought it was a social media scam, and that those cheese pulls were just a marketing ploy. We were definitely proven wrong. The crust? Crispy and savory. The cheese? Delectable. The cheese pull? Insane. The triple dipper deserves every piece of hype it is getting. It was genuinely one of the most appetizing and delicious things we have ever been graced with. It truly was the main event of the night.



Finally, we got the skillet cookie, also known as the pizza cookie, or more fondly, the "pizookie". It came out piping hot and melty with a big scoop of vanilla ice cream on top, and just enough spoons for everyone at the table. The cookie actually burnt our mouths off because we may or may not have eaten it before it cooled down, but the sweet vanilla ice cream cooled our burnt tongues in an extremely pleasant way. Its sweet aroma lifted us out of our food comas, and encouraged us to eat even more dairy than we already had. It was the perfect conclusion to the perfect meal.

Before



After



All in all, we can confidently say that sitting down at Chili's is most definitely worth it. While we enjoyed the food, our favorite part was the people we shared it with. In the frenzy of everyday life, we often leave behind human connection in order to "save time", but putting aside time to see the people you care about is the most important. Instead of choosing drive through, we should all consider sitting down in a sticky booth seat with a massive cookie and the people that mean the most to us.