

Des Moines Register

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Section: Datebook

Page: 28DB

Bar bio

Pierre Amanda

Staff

CHRISTOPHER'S

2816 Beaver Ave.

Phone: 274-3694

Bar hours: 3 p.m.-1 a.m. Mondays through Saturdays, depending on the crowd sometimes open until 2 a.m. closed Sundays

Owner: Members of the Guidicessi family

WHAT TO EXPECT: The bar is connected to a restaurant, and it can become a waiting area for diners before they are seated. It is also noteworthy on its own. The clean, classy bar area has a friendly, cozy feel. Not only is it dim and cool, it has a wide range of drinks and excellent food.

THE CROWD: This is a perfect spot for comfortable couples or small groups of friends who want to chat. Christopher's bargoers are often "business casual."

TUNES: The music is unobtrusive, which facilitates the friendly banter. Expect the smooth hits of Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra, jazz, or more adult-contemporary artists like Eric Clapton and John Mayer. The staff chooses the music. There is no jukebox.

ON THE WALL: Nothing distracts from the sophisticated decor. Fancy lamps in an Art Deco style adorn the walls, which are painted a muted beige. The woodwork around the windows is also decorative.

MUNCHIES: Calling the food here "munchies" is quite the understatement. The exquisite food at Christopher's has been drawing loyal customers for more than 40 years.

At the bar, patrons can order from the full menu, except during the rush on weekends. There is also an extensive bar menu with classic dishes. There are also adventurous choices such as Boursin Mushrooms, stuffed with cheese and served with a rich butter sauce.

BARTENDER'S CHOICE: Chris, the Australian bartender, said the \$4 Moscow Mule is quite popular, as are the martinis.

MOST EXPENSIVE DRINK: Martinis can cost up to \$7.50. Finer wines are about \$7.50 a glass.

SPECIALS/CHEAPEST DRINK: Happy hour from 3 to 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays offers \$2 domestic beers and \$2.50 well drinks.

BOTTOM LINE: The smooth, mellow atmosphere can make you feel as cool as a member of the Rat Pack.

-Amanda Pierre

