

# Culinary Confessions: George Martin's Grillfire Restaurant

**By Father Leo Patalinghug**

Growth in Hanover is a hot topic these days, affecting nearby St. Lawrence the Martyr Parish (named after a patron saint of chefs who was grilled alive). Part of that growth includes a chic hotel, The Hotel at Arundel Preserve, with a ground-floor signature restaurant offering comforting cuisine from George Martin's Grillfire Restaurant.

**Ambiance:** The restaurant features easy access, free garage parking and a lengthy, beautiful and functional two-sided gas fireplace near the entrance. Earth-toned, modern decor, high ceilings, dimmed lighting and comfortable furniture gives an autumnal calm - as if eating in a modern, upscale chalet. 4.5 out of 5 halos

**Service:** There's a friendly, but tight reception area. My server (perhaps having a bad day) was inconsistent - not unfriendly, but seemingly unmotivated. Thankfully, other servers and food runners were nearby to give patrons some attention. 2 out of 5 halos

**Menu:** George Martin's offers an impressive combination of family-friendly and familiar options, with fusion flavors available for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Selections are homey yet given some pizzazz. Specials offer multi-course deals (steals) for about \$20. 4 out of 5 halos

**Beverage selections:** Specialty cocktails and ample wine list, all moderately priced, make this place popular for happy hour. 4 out of 5 halos

**Food:** There are some promising menu items - a variety of salads, multiple appetizers and special fish tacos. Entrees include horseradish, cheddar and bacon-crusted meatloaf. The crab, bacon and brie-crusted filets were tasty. Other plates were bland and inconsistent. Overall, balanced with reasonable pricing and a whimsical complimentary cotton candy, there was more contentment than complaint. 3 out of 5 halos

The growth of an area brings many concerns, but we cannot discount the blessings as well, including more food opportunities. Possibly through the intercession of St. Lawrence, the Hanover area now has another "grill fire" to celebrate. Grillfire's cuisine brings comfort to travelers and to area locals - pilgrims in life, called to build up the Kingdom of God.

*For more information, visit [gracebeforemeals.com](http://gracebeforemeals.com)*



*Also see:*

## Cafe' Mezzanotte pleases

Volt restaurant is always a winner

Aida hits high notes with wines on tap

Birrotecca serves up unique offerings

Comfort food, Taneytown style

Woodberry kitchen offers farm-to-table excellence

Gourmet goodness in Catonsville

Bay Leaf is a spice bite

*Wit and Wisdom offers hearthside charm*

*Vegetarian meals are for more than Lenten Fridays*

*Millersville restaurant shows conversion is ongoing*

*Amicci's: Friendly to customers and pocketbook*

*Holy smokin' good barbecue*

*Baltimore's crabbiest and 'best' crabcakes*

*This Cinco de Mayo celebrate simple and authentic truths*