

# Life is Indeed Sweet at Casa Dolce

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I love Italian food and I love dessert, but many have begun to settle for an uninspired plate of spaghetti and a stale cupcake for my meal. The truth is, both great Italian food and great dessert are hard to come by unless you are willing to pay for a fancy meal or some sort of special occasion that involves cake. Luckily for us all, Casa Dolce provides an affordable and delicious remedy to this problem.

Casa Dolce is located on Mayfield Road, just before the intersection of Mayfield and Brainard Roads, next to the Greens of Lyndhurst shopping plaza. I originally knew nothing about Casa Dolce until a friend and mentor suggested that it really was a cut above the usual Italian food and that I ought to check it out. I had eaten some of Casa Dolce's cake before, which was good enough for me to at least give their other desserts a shot. And believe me, Casa Dolce was indeed worth the shot; not only for their desserts, but also for their other foods.

At the time of this article's publication, I have tried the chicken milanese (like chicken parmigiana, but lighter), the veal parmigiana sandwich,

the pulled pork sandwich, and the Italian wedding soup. Obviously, pulled pork is not Italian, but that doesn't stop Casa Dolce's pulled pork sandwich from being among the best barbecue I've ever had (and that includes many southern barbecue

bowl of the hearty, fresh-made soup. This is no run-of-the-mill Italian wedding soup - the blend of ingredients make it unlike any other Italian wedding soup I've ever had, and it is absolutely perfect for a chilly day. The sandwiches are also large enough for

what really make the place shine. Upon walking in, I was instantly drawn to the array of tantalizing desserts on display. I can hardly name the entire selection, but a few highlights that I have had include the chocolate mousse, which is served in

a carefully made chocolate cup and topped with seasonal fruit, as well as the tiramisu, which is so good I have often considered stopping by Casa Dolce (which is not on my way home) just to buy two or three pieces of tiramisu to enjoy later. There are also lemon bars, at least three different kinds of cake, cannoli, panna cotta, and rich brownies. Whenever I get dessert at Casa Dolce, I have to limit myself to a kind of dessert to avoid eating all of the desserts they have to offer. The cakes are flat-out fantastic - for both my father's birthday and my birthday we have ordered the chocolate mousse cake, which is the best cake in the world. I am not exaggerating here.

Casa Dolce really sets the standard for small, family-owned places in Cleveland. The service is always fast and friendly, and the food is always fresh and delicious. Whether you're looking

for a place for lunch, or just have a sweet tooth to satisfy, this is the place to look for. At only about \$13 for lunch, a drink, and dessert, this is well within anyone's price range. Seniors, as long as you have a free period before or after lunch, you'll have time to go here if you're interested.



Casa-Dolce.net

Casa Dolce, located at 5732 Mayfield Road in Mayfield Heights.

places). The pork is incredibly tender, and the seasonings in it only amplify the mouth-watering flavors. I am a huge fan of soup/sandwich combos for lunch - the sort that give you half a sandwich and a cup of soup for about \$8 - but I think Casa Dolce's combos are a real value. The Italian wedding soup is, again, the best around, and the combo gives you a

anyone - a half sandwich was enough lunch for me - but they aren't piled high with ingredients like a common sub sandwich. The focus is more on one ingredient - such as the veal parmigiana or chicken milanese - that stands on its own but also complements the freshly baked bread each sandwich is made with. All of Casa Dolce's food is presented in the main café area, so you can choose which piece of chicken or slice of pizza or pasta nest you are getting, which is a surprisingly nice touch.

Casa Dolce's food makes for a great lunch, whether alone or with friends and family, but the desserts are

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### Casa Dolce

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