

## **Elliot's' Smoked Barbecue**

By Kelly Justman

Since permanently moving to North Carolina, the only barbecue place we ate at was Sonny's and that was only once. My husband's coworker told him that Elliot's Barbecue was much better than Sonny's, so on a whim one day, we stopped to eat dinner there.

The menu is simple. You can get pulled pork, beef brisket, ribs or chicken. They offer two salads, stew, desserts, beer, and children's plates (\$2.99). Your meat can come on a sandwich, which comes with slaw and fries, or on a plate that comes with two side items and hush puppies. The side items are slaw (regular or spicy vinegar), baked beans, fries, onion rings, potato salad, and fried okra. Prices range from \$3.59 to \$19.99 (only one item, the "Big Guy" rack). You can also order items by bulk. They do catering as well.

My husband and I both ordered the pulled pork with spicy vinegar slaw and baked beans. I ordered the regular size (\$5.79) and he ordered the jumbo (\$6.99). They do not put barbecue sauce on the meat but rather they have several different types of sauces on each table so you can pick your own or mix and match. The sauces were available were sweet, hot, vinegar, and regular. I tried them all except for the hot. No surprise, my husband and I weren't wowed by the vinegar sauce. It is a matter of preference at this point and not a shot against the actual sauce.

The slaw was the best I have tasted in a long time. Although the name implies "spicy" it is not spicy hot. A great flavor and I ate every last bite. The meat was probably the second favorite item on the plate. It was very moist and very little sauce was needed. My son and I ate all the baked beans which were good as well. My only complaint is the hush puppies. My husband loved them as did our son. I thought they tasted old. I'm sure they are okay fresh out of the fryer, but they weren't when I had them.

I forgot to mention that we ate there at 7:30pm and they close at 8:00pm.

I would definitely go back. My husband, who is not a fan of barbecue, wants to keep it on our list of places to dine in or carry-out.

Elliot's Smoked Barbecue is located in Windsor Square Shopping Center off of Independence Boulevard. It is near Media Play and Office Depot. They are closed on Mondays for dinner.