

# Rutherfords 465 has your number

By **COLLEEN COFFIELD SACHS**  
Daily News Columnist

**DESTIN** – I have always found Rutherfords to be a beautiful restaurant.

Wood accents add warmth. A gracefully arching ceiling leads the eye past nautical paintings to a lovely view of the golf course that, thanks to creative lighting, is as pretty at night as it is during the day.

When Rutherfords first opened, it was all about upscale fine dining, and I enjoyed many memorable meals there. Over the years the format has changed dramatically, but the room is still beautiful, and the food is still outstanding.

Rutherfords is open for lunch and early dinner. The combined lunch and dinner menu offers casual food at a good value.

Rutherfords seems to do a particularly good job when it comes to shrimp, and the Dragon Shrimp appetizer of perfectly fried tempura-battered shrimp was delicious. A bowl of the soup of the day is usually a good option to start with as well.

Salads include a house salad with feta, artichoke hearts and kalamata olives. Fried chicken and tuna salads serve as a meal.

Among the sandwiches are burgers, including a chili-cheese version, and the Cordon Bleu Burger with ham and Swiss cheese. A seafood sandwich featuring fish or shrimp that has been fried, blackened or grilled is another option.

Nicely fried shrimp show up as an entrée with the Panko Gulf Shrimp. I also liked the Trigger Del Sol, which featured pan-fried triggerfish with a sunflower seed crust, grilled pineapple and pineapple beurre blanc.

Most noteworthy at Rutherfords are two special menus. Sunday brunch provides a leisurely way to enjoy the weekend with friends. Reservations are recommended, and the room filled with people is lively and fun. Shrimp and grits, a variety of egg dishes (including a good Benedict), and Trigger Del Sol appear on this menu.

Good bets are the French Toast Royale, fragrant with cinnamon and surrounded by fresh berries; and a light as air ham and Swiss omelet. All were served with a choice of cheese grits or potatoes.



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Rutherfords 465 is in Regatta Bay in Destin adjacent to the clubhouse.

The grits were the only thing on the menu that missed the flavor mark, and as much as I like grits, I would opt for the potatoes here.

The best bet at Rutherfords was the Cuisines of the World menu. Monday through Friday evenings a different cuisine is explored each week. On one visit we had Cuban fare. The week of Halloween paid tongue-in-cheek tribute to the foods of Transylvania. Upcoming cuisines offered until Dec. 15 include California, Caribbean, Northeastern and Japanese. The three-course prix fixe menus are offered between 4 and 7 p.m. and are a remarkably low \$14.95.

While occasionally a course may have only one option, typically there are two or three items from which to choose. On the Cuban menu, I tried an excellent smoked ham croquette, while my dining companion chose the black bean soup. The second course gave us the option of roast pork; or

garlicky shrimp. Dessert was a Cuban-style Opera cake.

Rutherfords has lots of private events, including weddings, and often has limited availability on the weekends. It is best to call ahead to make sure seating is available. In addition to catered events, Rutherfords has special events that are open to the public. Upcoming events are a Thanksgiving buffet, and a Champagne Walkabout (Nov. 30).

Whether you go for a casual lunch, Sunday Brunch, a special event, or to sample world cuisines, Rutherford's offers excellent food and a beautiful place to eat. While the concept may change, the quality remains.



Colleen Coffield Sachs is restaurant reviewer for the Daily News. She dines unannounced at area restaurants for this column. You may write to her in care of the newspaper at P.O. Box 2949, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549.

## DiningFACTS Rutherfords 465

**Location**

Regatta Bay, Destin  
Telephone: 337-8888

**Hours**

Monday through Saturday,  
11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10  
a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Reservations**

Recommended

**Handicap accessibility**

Good

**Children's menu**

No

**Price range**

**Appetizers**  
\$7 - \$9

**Salads and Sandwiches**  
\$7 - \$10

**Entrees**  
\$14 - \$17

**Three-course prix fixe menu**  
\$14.95

**Sunday Brunch**  
\$5 - \$17

**Payment**

Major credit cards

**Atmosphere**

★★★★

**Value**

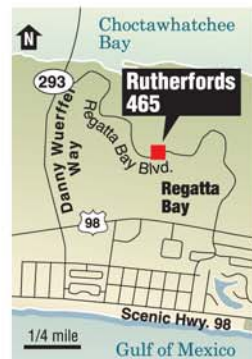
★★★★

**Food**

★★★★

**Overall rating**

★★★★



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## À LA CARTE

**NOVEMBER**

Nov. 3: **The Grape**, 4105 Legendary Drive, Destin Commons, Destin, 65GRAPE (47273). Overall rating: ★★½

**OCTOBER**

Oct. 27: **Helen Back Café**, 114 Amberjack Drive, Fort Walton Beach, 796-1451. Overall rating: ★★½

Oct. 20: **Sai-Kyo**, 14091H Emerald Coast Parkway, Destin, 650-5319. Overall rating: ★★★

Oct. 13: **The Village Deli Café**, Village of Baytowne Wharf at Sandestin, 351-1989. Overall rating: ★★½

Oct. 6: **The Donut Hole**, 635 U.S. Highway 98 East, Destin, 837-8824.

Overall rating: ★★★

**SEPTEMBER**

Sept. 29: **Shades at the Loop**, 10952 County Road 30A, Inlet Beach, 231-9410. Overall rating: ★★½

Sept. 22: **Logan's Roadhouse**, 315 Mary Esther Blvd., Mary Esther, 243-7191. Overall rating: ★★★

Sept. 15: **Big City Grill**, 16735 South Highway 331, Freeport, 880-6103. Overall rating: ★★★

Sept. 8: **Mangos Paradise Grille**, 117 Cannery Lane, Village of Baytowne Wharf at Sandestin, 351-4526. Overall rating: ★★½

Here is a list of restaurants Colleen Coffield Sachs has reviewed in recent weeks