



D I N I N G
Going out with
HABIT
BY GEORGE HABIT



THE GEORGE AWARD
APPLEWOOD INN



FORGET EVERYTHING you know about pizza and pizza parlors! Everyone, and we mean everyone, who likes pizza should try **APPLEWOOD INN** in Menlo Park! Here's an unpreposing El Camino pizza parlor that is actually an inviting and comfy restaurant.

The feeling of warmth is a reflection of owner Bela Kardos background. Bavarian in style with dark



Bela Kardos lattice partitions, floral curtains, well-spaced tables and booths and many German/Hungarian knickknacks. **APPLEWOOD** is unique in pizza parlor decor and pizza taste. The night we arrived we found a cross section of Stanford students, couples and a number of families who swore they refuse to eat pizza anywhere else!

Seeking a corner booth, we noted immediately that the pizza menu reaches out in directions that are creative and unique. We decided to discuss the possibilities over a salad with enough fresh vegetables to comfortably share while we sampled Bela's goulash soup. We felt adventurous as we walked up and ordered a medium pizza, half Polish, half Dallas. From there we headed for the bar at the back of the **APPLEWOOD**. There's a respectable wine list as well as an amazing number of imports (Anchor Steam is on tap), but you can bet bigger than life mugs of Spaten are really popular here. As we sipped our beverages we observed the pizza chef carefully hand-tossing our pizza dough.

When our number was called (lucky 39!) we nicked up our pizza

and without hesitation dug in. The Polish half of the pizza was a juxtaposition of cooked sauerkraut, plenty of Polish sausage, red onion and garlic. It was a unique and extremely good blend of textures that bear repeating. The Dallas half featured BBQ beef, chili, mushrooms, onion and bell pepper and definitely had a 'y'all come' quality about it. The dough here is of pastry quality and so light that it practically breathes. Even chronic crust leavers are likely to gobble up every last bite.

We should note that while **APPLEWOOD** features pizzas with everything from prunes, smoked salmon and caviar, for the less adventuresome, you'll find standard toppings of pepperoni, salami and the like. There's also a wide selection of pastas, crepes and sandwiches.

But take note, pizza business here is so brisk that Bela had to open a separate store for 'to go' pizza only across the street. So if you don't want to stick around, just give mgr. Peter Schoebel a call and he'll have your **APPLEWOOD** pizza, and yes, it's of the very same taste and quality you'll find at the original **APPLEWOOD**, hot and ready to go when you arrive.

As we were readying to leave **APPLEWOOD** we began making plans to return and try one of the many different pizzas that has put this place on the map. You've got to hand it to Bela, he continues to demonstrate pizza with elan!

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