

New reviews

Johnny Rockets



★★★★☆
Verdict Shake it up.

American, Saket

"Johnny B Goode" plays on loop. All around us people rehearse their dance moves, humming to the song under their breaths, waiting for the show to begin. No,

this isn't backstage at a show, but lunch hour at Johnny Rockets, Delhi's newest diner chain. The bizarre customer service continues with startlingly exuberant welcomes and goodbyes to each customer by a large contingent at the entrance, mixed-up drink orders, and delays in bringing out dishes. It's also a loud, tightly packed place – we saw a customer get smacked on the head by an errant tray and many plus-sized guests trying to squeeze through between the closely set seats. That said, the chaos isn't entirely off-putting; or if it is, it's mitigated by the enjoyable grub.

Known for its shakes and burgers, Johnny Rockets has opened simultaneously in Gurgaon and Saket, tempting Delhi's health conscious lunchers with fatty goodness. The deep fried onion rings are coated in crumbly sourdough and comes with a lush, creamy tartar sauce. The Route

66 Burger is loaded with grilled mushrooms, Swiss cheese and mushrooms. You can choose between aloo, mixed veggies, mushroom, soy, panko paneer, chicken and tenderloin patties and further customise breads or add cheese, extra toppings and sauces. However, our basic tenderloin avatar required no further garnishing; the meat and mushrooms were all the flavour we really wanted. For those refusing to give in to temptation, the diner serves a range of basic greens. Our giant bowl of Greek Salad was fresh and light and we liked the fact that they didn't skimp on olives and feta – the most expensive ingredients and so the most grudgingly doled out. You must, must, must have a shake here; it serves the triple purpose of quenching your thirst, replacing dessert and being supremely delicious. Our mocha

HONEST, FAIR REVIEW

Time Out reviews anonymously and pays for meals

fudge was decadence itself – sinfully rich, unbelievably thick, chocolaty heaven in an enormous glass; it's what we'll remember weeks from now (especially when gloomily staring at the weighing scale) and what we'll undoubtedly, if guiltily, return for.

Vilasini Roy

THE BILL

Mocha fudge shake	₹250
Onion rings	₹200
Greek salad	₹275
Route 66 Burger	₹450
Taxes	₹328
Total	₹1,503

Johnny Rockets Select Citywalk, Second Floor, Saket (4607-2626). ☎ Malviya Nagar. Daily 11am-10pm. Meal for two ₹1,500.

The Hungry Monkey

★★★★☆
Verdict Hunger games.

Continental, Safdurjung Enclave

Let's begin with the punchline – till the liquor license kicks in, The Hungry Monkey allows you to bring your own booze. It's a wonderful idea, and something we wish more restaurants would allow. So you can hang out with your own bottle of wine on their beautiful terrace, and spend a long, lovely evening, without having to spend too much. The terrace is one of the Safdurjung Enclave restaurant's great strengths. As is the rest of the decor really: wood, exposed brick and mood lighting come together to make this a rather romantic evening spot and the three large floors mean you can probably find yourself a secluded corner even on busy weekends.

It's got to be a date with someone who isn't too keen on the eating though – for food is where The Hungry Monkey falls rather flat. The Bang Bang chicken roll with Chinese rice paper was an odd way to begin. Perhaps, because the rolls weren't rolls at all; the rice paper lay open with bits of chicken

strewn inside like dumplings someone had forgotten to make. It was also, surprisingly, a cold dish. The tenderloin Carpaccio, another cold dish, fared better. The seared meat was well pounded, if slightly flavourless; the mayo, mustard and artichokes, however, went a long way in flavouring the dish. You can couple this with one of their mammoth iced teas (the peach flavour was pleasantly unsweetened and they gave us an extra shot of sugar syrup on the side that we chose not to use) or a girly strawberry daisy punch, which

was frothy and fun.

Our biggest disappointment of the evening was the burger – we ordered The Bomb – another tenderloin preparation with the saltiest meat we'd had in a while and too-strong cheese. The chicken casserole was more palatable – the rice, onions and mushrooms were homey and warming, and the red-wine braised chicken had a delicious layer of skin. We ended our meal with a coffee and dessert. The restaurant has a Nespresso machine which produced a strong black coffee (it's a different

matter that we had asked for an espresso) that we quite enjoyed. If you must try one thing at this restaurant, let it be the white chocolate parfait. It's flavoured with a liberal dose of Kahlua that's paired well with the semi-frozen creamy dessert. It's a satisfactory way to end any meal – though the meal in question here was anything but. VR

THE BILL

Seared tenderloin carpaccio	₹425
Bang Bang chicken rolls	₹375
Chicken casserole	₹650
The Bomb	₹575
Strawberry Daisy Punch	₹185
Peach Collins	₹150
Nespresso (Roma)	₹175
White chocolate parfait	₹475
Taxes	₹855
Total	₹3,865

The Hungry Monkey B-6/6 DDA Market, Second Floor, Safdurjung Enclave, opposite Deer Park (4604-9801). Daily 11.30am-3pm; 7pm-1am. Meal for two ₹3,500.

