

TAVERN 1757

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Along the Housatonic River in southwestern Connecticut, just south of Lake Zoar which winds over the dam and heads into the town of Seymour, across the water you will see a restaurant that looks a bit up scale for what we usually offer – but don't let the slightly upscale looks of Tavern 1757 fool you.

Tavern 1757 keeps its 260-year old heritage.



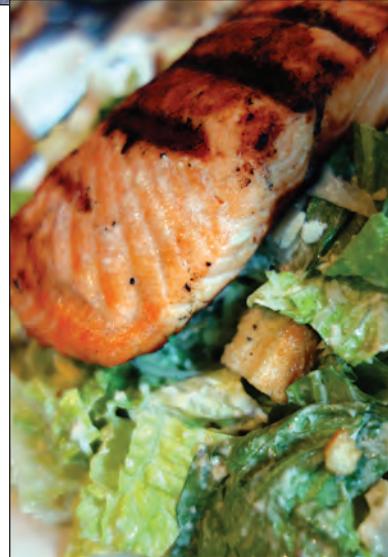
Although a modern, open and airy building, they used much of the original wood and beams from the old building in its construction. This great mix of old and new has a really comfortable feel all around. Tavern 1757 offers riders in the area something a bit different when it comes to the region's eateries and they serve up some seriously great chow as well.

We were turned onto Tavern 1757 by our friend, and Northeast Director of the Concours Owners Group, Steve Smith. Steve's son-in-law, Je Meagher, took over the Tavern a year or so back and it has quickly become a favorite with locals along the Housatonic.

It had been a while since we have featured a Nutmeg State restaurant in the Great All American Diner Run and when Shira was putting together her "July is National Ice Cream Month" Mystery Ride, she realized that our first stop at the PEZ Factory was just a few minutes ride from the Tavern. Emails were made, phone calls followed up and we arranged for about 13 of us to drop in right after they opened on a Wednesday afternoon in July.

The 1757 has a large lot and easily swallowed up our dozen bikes. They had a large and long table all set and ready to go for our group.

Although they do a superb dinner and have a whopping wine cellar as well, we were on bikes and there for lunch, so we'll stick with that menu.



Of course sandwiches are a big thing and Tavern 1757 offers plenty with burgers, fish tacos and clubs.

The burgers were well liked and the fish tacos off the chart. They also serve jerk chicken, Rueben and a pesto chicken sandwich. The sausage and spinach was also a big winner this day.

Sides and appys include large and tasty roasted potato wedges, chips and shoestring fries – but the eggplant fries really stole the show. You can also get a garden or Caesar salad as a side.

We heard their meatball Parmesan sandwich is legendary – but like some other legends it was unseen this day (we have to go back for this).

Behind the wide bar, opposite the window that looks out on the tabled deck, there is a large wood-fired pizza oven that was cranking when we arrived. Tavern 1757 does a marvelous job with the Italian classic. Traditional, Margherita, sweet sausage and meat lovers can be found.

Some more interesting pizzas included Steak Sinatra... flank steak, mushroom, onion, red peppers and sweet vermouth demi-glace marinara - Damn!

Mashed potato with cheddar cheese, crispy bacon, pan gravy and frizzled onions. Double Damn!

Tavern 1757 makes pies interesting, but let's talk one or two more...

The Jack Mac, which is pulled chicken tossed with their Jack Daniels sauce and cheddar mac & cheese with apple wood smoked bacon.

Shira ordered the Fig, with prosciutto, caramelized onion and goat cheese with a balsamic reduction drizzle. I stole half to go with my Caesar and salmon salad.

Another great salad for you carnivores (I know that sounds weird) was the mixed grill salad that our friend Steve ordered - really two meals on one plate. Part Caesar salad, part house ensalade and then topped with an ample supply of grilled shrimp, lobster and steak.

I obviously was too busy talking to really studying the menu as well as I should have, but the beauty is we can go back and we will again and again when in this part of Connecticut.

The restaurant easily handled our large group with smiles and we all had our food within 20 minutes of them taking the order – excellent with a large ride-in group like ours. In addition, they have a large upstairs room, with outdoor balcony, available for larger groups – think riding club dinners, holiday celebrations and such.

Tavern 1757 is a wonderful place - our new "Go To" and well worth seeking out.

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Backroads