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For Good Reasons, Luna pack 'em in at lunch

One a recent Friday morning, two friends from Vero Beach had to be in Port St. Lucie. Afterward, since they were already halfway there, they wanted to eat lunch at a favorite Stuart restaurant, Luna Italian Restaurant. We invited ourselves to join them.

This downtown landmark draws droves of mid-day customers. Many as regulars, don't need to read the menu. The choices run the gamut from pizzas, calzones, strombolis, and subs to pasta and platters that would serve well as hot entrees for dinner.

The pizza roster features standards, priced \$9.95-\$13.95 with dozens of add-ons (\$1-\$2 each), among them fresh basil, garlic, broccoli, spinach, olives, meatballs, ham anchovies and eggplant.

Or, you can enjoy a specialty pizza (\$12.95-\$17.45). These include white, diet, house and vegetarian versions. Pizza is also sold by the slice.

Our friends chose their usual Luna meal, a 14-inch vegetarian special pizza, with fresh mushrooms, onions, peppers, garlic and ripe olives (\$12.95). As always, they loved it and took three wedges home.

Husband Fran ordered a hot sausage, peppers, and onion sub sandwich (\$6.65) that he thoroughly enjoyed. In the first place, he said, Luna's sub rolls are spectacular - crisp outside, soft and yeasty inside - the best in the county. In the second place, the starring ingredients are delicious, as is the marinara sauce.

I would never eat at Luna without selecting something accompanied by their hot garlic knots (served with pasta, entrees and salads). IN today's jargon, these piping hot morsels of baked yeast dough are awesome! I therefore, picked rotini and broccoli salad on crisp greens with tomato wedges, cucumbers and ripe olives (\$6.45). My salad was huge. The dressing was lovely. I enjoyed it and took home enough (plus two delicious knots) for the next day's lunch.

With iced tea (\$1.60 each), our portion o the bill amounted to \$16.30, plus \$1.14 tax and \$3 tip, totaling \$20.44.

What's not to like at Luna? I hope this Stuart institution never fades away.