

SAVE-ON-MEATS SERVES UP DINER DINNERS IN THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE [VANCOUVER]

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A walk down Vancouver's Hastings Street isn't quite the same without the friendly flash of the neon-pink pig sign for Save-On-Meats. Recently re-opened under new management, this city staple has been reinvented as a butcher shop slash sandwich stand slash diner.

An Eastside Landmark

Save-On-Meats first opened its doors in 1952 and served the community for 57 years, until its original owner retired and closed up shop in 2009. With a new owner and with a fresh modern look (including a new but still delightfully gaudy neon pig sign), Save-On-Meats re-opened earlier this summer.

Diner Fare

Looking for lunch, a friend and I decided to stop into the diner for a late bite. The ambiance of the place is an incredible mix of cool, clean minimalist design and retro kitsch—complete with sea foam-green diner booths and old-fashioned cartoon food signs.

Picture

The food lives up to its name, in that you do seem to “save on” meat: food ranged from \$3 to \$12 and included classic diner fare like meatloaf, burgers and corned beef on rye. My eating companion and I tried to order the meatiest meals we could find (this was, after all, save on meat), choosing Bangers and Mash (\$9) and Ribs (\$11). The food definitely fit into the comfort food category—our meals were tasty, though a bit too heavy for regular consumption.

The Verdict

The new Save-on-Meats has done its legacy proud. While the diner food wasn't a culinary masterpiece, the atmosphere and super-friendly service made the experience more than pleasant.

Save-on-Meats is open 7 days a week.