

The Governor

By Rasheeda Campbell

During a Sunday evening while on a much needed vacation in Europe, a hunt for a place to eat occurred. Hidden in the lobby of the Ambassador City Centre Hotel in Haarlem, Netherlands is a restaurant called "The Governor." From being hungry and having limited options, this restaurant was the chosen one. "The Governor" looks as prestigious as it sounds. Very much that the royals would make a dinner reservation here. The dim lighting sets a pleasant mood in the small and cozy eatery. It was fairly quiet aside from the casual chitchat coming from the small group of people sitting at the bar and the nostalgic American soul music that was lightly playing throughout the restaurant. The entire restaurant looked clean and spotless from the ceiling to the marble floor. From the restaurant's appearance, one may think of it as a place for the rich (and snooty) to only be able to afford to wine and dine here. However, "The Governor" is a restaurant that will remind you not to judge a place by its appearance.

Instead of getting a stereotypical, snooty waiter wearing a penguin suit or a tuxedo one would assume this type of establishment would have, a charming waiter with a sense of humor seated my party of nine. He handed each individual a menu that was a single page and nothing on the back. I held my breath and braced myself to see a menu of expensive dishes, but was relieved after seeing special. It was a burger, with a side of fries and a brand beer for 15 euros; which equates to \$16.75.

While patiently waiting for our food to arrive the waiter brings each of us silverware specifically used and perfect for what we ordered. For once, I was actually given a knife for my burger that would allow me to be able to perfectly cut it in half if I wanted to. The silverware was beautifully decorated with flowers and snugly wrapped in a cloth napkin. Although we waited a while for our food to arrive, we were at least entertained; but in unexpected ways. One unexpected way was the restaurant getting a visit from a military general. What was different about this military general is that he walked on four legs and was known as being a "good boy." The owner said to be cautious when petting him since he's a trained military dog, but the general gave my leg a few friendly sniffs as a way to say hello. The waiter also kept us entertained with his pleasant bursts of karaoke to the songs playing in the restaurant. The playlist featured songs that would without a doubt be featured in an album titled "Now That's What I Call Oldies." From Stevie Wonder to Aretha Franklin, this restaurant definitely has an appreciation for the legends of soul music.

When my food arrived it was perfectly placed on a wooden plate with the burger on the left side and the fries evenly spread out on the right. My beer was separately handed to me with a smile by the waiter as I tried to set it down without the foam at the top of it spilling over. The burger was a well done angus beef burger with bacon and Dutch cheese served on a brioche bun. The ketchup was placed on the side since it costs extra. After biting into the burger, its juices began to fall on to the plate. Better my plate than my lap for once. It was perfect seasoned and cooked well done without being over cooked or burned. The fries were lightly salted and crunchy. The beer wasn't too strong, but had a kick to it. Even the ketchup, which had a hint of applesauce in it, was flavorful and delicious causing me to contemplate if I should pay for another side cup of it. After eating a decent amount of my meal, out of curiosity I tasted the meal my friend sitting next to me ordered. She ordered the lemongrass chicken

which was chicken thighs in lemongrass and ginger served with a rosti, baby corn and popcorn. Her chicken was juicy and nicely seasoned for a light and savory taste. Her meal cost 16 euros.

“The Governor” has a style that may come off as too fancy for any day eating, but when it comes to the food it is the opposite. Compared to other restaurants of the sort, “The Governor” is an affordable one with friendly staff and a great atmosphere. Its menu is a little limited, but there is something on there for anyone with any type of diet.

The Governor

Located in [Ambassador City Centre Hotel](#)

Oude Groenmarkt 18-20, 2011 HL Haarlem, Netherlands

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1AM–12AM

Wednesday	11AM–12AM
Thursday	11AM–1AM
Friday	11AM–2AM
Saturday	11AM–2AM
Sunday	11AM–12AM
(Liberation Day)	Hours might differ
Monday	11AM–12AM