The Winery: the one restaurant to go to

The Winery, 321 W. Huron St., is one of the newest additions to the city's restaurant scene. The interior is beautifully decorated with large rugs and wooden designs. The rustic wooden beam, floors and walls are accented by inlaid wooden tables are accented by inlaid wooden designs. Along the walls and ceiling are large rugs. There is a distinct lack of noise. There is no clutter of dishes or silverware, nor can any kitchen noises be detected. The acoustics are such that intimate conversation is possible.

When you enter, you are greeted as you would expect to be greeted at a private club. Immediately upon sitting down, the waiter apprises and introduces himself. He remarks that you will receive a complimentary caviar of wine with your meal, take your drink orders and invites you to indulge in the salad bar.

When the drinks arrive, you are munching a crisp salad. The salad bar is of the same variety of those seen in Beachstreet's, Charlie's or Salad Days. The dressings served are surprisingly good. Sometime during the next few minutes, your order is taken. The waiter informs you that your food will be served in order, commenting that you may instruct him as to when you would like it to arrive. The main course and the wine have arrived. As you would expect, the food is attractively served, but it is truly, truly extraordinary-tasting. I never enjoyed a tractorily served, but it is truly, truly extraordinary-tasting. I never enjoyed a

The prices on the menu range from $6.50 to $11.50 and nothing seems to be overpriced — in fact, being steep such royal treatment makes The Winery one of the best restaurants in Boston.

Grading on a scale of 1 to 5, The Winery scores magnificently.

Food: 5

Price: 5

You will certainly be impressed. The dishes that I sampled were fabulous, and I am told that the others, various beef dishes included, are as pleasing. I would not have to change a thing: the cooking and use of spices were flawless.

Atmosphere: 5

Cozy and romantic.

The Undertones is overdone

(03) The Undertones, Sire Records SRK6081

I have to start this off by exclaiming that I love the Ramones. I had read a lot about the Undertones being “the Irish Ramones,” so as soon as I saw their album on sale, I bought a copy. Things looked promising as I peered at the cover during the bus ride home. All five guys in the band look pretty scruffy. Two are wearing black leather jackets; one is busily rubbing his eye with his index finger.

I was further impressed as I pulled out the record and put it on the turntable. Side one has eight songs. All run 2:36 or less, and half are under two minutes long — certainly an indication of quality in my book.

As soon as the music started, it was clear that these were not the Irish Ramones, but rather the Irish Buzzcocks. The songs are lively and bouncy, with arrangements much more like the Buzzcocks than the stony age madness of the Ramones. The vocals are varied, with the

The rest of the band holding Feargal Sharkey occasionally.

One thing that I don't like is the number of blatant "girl songs" on the album. A band that can clearly write interesting lyrics (like Feargal Sharkey’s “Male Model” about a guy frustrated all his life in his attempts to become a clothes model) has no excuse for a song where half the lyrics are: "What can you do/When the girls don't like it?" repeated over and over. Don't get me wrong — it's a fine tune. It just has rather slim social relevance, as far as I can tell. And too many other songs on the album are like that.

My other major complaint about the record is the excessive production. Sharkey’s voice is interesting enough without filtering and doubling, and there's lots of compression and overdubbing throughout. I really prefer to listen to simple, real-sounding recordings.

As a whole, The Undertones is a worthwhile record. I suspect it will have the same appeal as the Buzzcocks' Singles Going Steady — to people who want to graduate from FM power pop in light, energetic rock wave. I hope their next album will have better lyrics and less tricky production but will keep the intensity, diversity, and fun displayed in their first release.

Jonathan Cohen

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