

Cheap eats: Fat Jack's Supersubs

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It seems so simple, a good submarine sandwich. Then why do so many sub shops get it wrong?

Balance, baby; and bread. When the bread is top-notch and the other parts are in the proper proportions, a sub is a beautiful thing.

Behold, then, the specimens at Fat Jack's Supersubs, two locations with the same idea: Use righteous ingredients evenly layered inside crusty bread baked right there, and tell people what they are. Thumann's meats. Hellmann's Real Mayonnaise. Grey Poupon mustard.

They bake the French-style bread all day (they also bake their own seven-grain whole wheat, and it's a hearty one), the trays pulled continually from the ovens so the smell and warmth hit you as you walk in the door at either spot, the University of Denver site at East Evans Avenue near Interstate 25 or the Capitol Hill one on Lafayette Street at East Colfax Avenue.

The Capitol Hill store was the original location opened by Ryan and Jeff Ward five years ago, when the two brothers from the Midwest looked around and decided they could do sandwiches better than what they were seeing in Colorado. The DU spot opened two years ago, and since they deliver free with no minimum, the college crowd has been loyal ever since.

It's not hard to see why. Twenty options are broken down into four main styles. There are five "classic subs" (\$4.59), such as Johnny Roast Beef, thin-sliced, medium-rare meat with the fixings, cheese 65 cents extra (the choices are always Wisconsin cheddar, pepper jack, provolone and Swiss); and two "super salads" (\$4.85), which means their sweet homemade chicken salad featuring apples, celery and onion and their mayo-creamy tuna salad with a light red-onion bite.

Fat Jack's also does veggie subs (\$4.25) and can do any sub as a low-carb option wrapped in a tortilla (they promise fewer than 11 grams of net carbs in all but a few, which they list on the menu. But the best sandwiches in the place are the ones listed under "classic clubs" (all \$6.25,) such as my favorite, the Gold Coast (\$6.25), turkey and avocado with lettuce, tomato, mayo, sprouts, mustard and cheddar; or The Fax, a club of sorts with turkey and bacon.

As at any sandwich shop worth its salty chips, you can get a meal deal for \$6.29 (the subs) or \$7.99 (the clubs) that includes a bag of those chips, a drink and a pickle. They also do party subs, \$24.99 for 2-foot sections, which feeds 6-8.

No 'tude here, either, dude. The family-run feeling runs deep, and everyone gets treated like a regular.

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Fat Jack's Supersubs

DELI|1245 E. Colfax Ave., 303-830-7827; 4101 E. Evans Ave., 303-757-7827|\$4.25-\$8|10 a.m.-3 a.m. Thursday-Saturday; 10 a.m.-midnight Sunday-Wednesday; all major credit cards; parking lot; free delivery in the area.

Front burner: Bread baked fresh every two hours; good- quality meats; fast, friendly service; excellent prices.

Back burner: Too bad there isn't one in every neighborhood, but then it might not be the same.