

Yerevan's first American Diner

Square One, 1/3 Abovian Street

Square One hardly needs to be reviewed for an English speaking audience; in it's first months, it has developed a faithful clientele, both local and foreign, that easily qualifies as a core of regulars. Why is Square One so popular?

Much credit should go to the owner-operators, who have made great choices for the design and menu of the place. You'll often see Stepan making the rounds to greet his most frequent customers like all of the best restaurantuers do. Another reason you'll come back is that substitutions are allowed, and once the waitstaff grasps what you want, it's never a problem. Another part of the excellent customer service is that the place is priced to welcome the slowly growing middle class of Armenian locals, unlike some other places that cater to expats.

For American Expats, Square One is also an excellent dining option because of the familiar. Booths, strong coffee and foods that do a body, or at least the taste buds good, comfort the intrepid traveler or the very hung-over. Fresh squeezed juices, diner favorites like hamburgers, cheese steaks and omelets, and the relatively light, sunny atmosphere during the day alone make Sq1 worth a visit.

But every place has an Achilles heel. Italian food snobs should stay away from the pastas. And every now and then the otherwise helpful and very pleasant wait staff will forget you're there after you're done eating and you must often pursue both a check and the clearing of the table.

Oh well, overall Square One offers excellent service, good food and reasonable prices. What else can the discerning customer ask for, wireless internet? Hopefully, it's coming soon.

Exclusively reviewed by The Yerevan Times

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