



DINNER AT DATSA PIZZA

Okay, Indy, I officially give up. For 11 years now, I've been complaining about the dearth of quality pizza in central Indiana. From my home in New Jersey, I could throw a rock and hit more decent pizza joints than I could with a tank of gas here. Not that I could throw a tank of gas. Or that I really have that much of an arm. But you get the idea.

Well, it seems that every few months since about mid-'02, I've found another place—usually a new place—that has clear ideas on how to combine dough, tomato sauce and cheese. Friends, rejoice: My pizza bitching days may be coming to an end.

Here's the latest evidence.

Datsa Pizza took over the former Domino's location on Pennsylvania Street near the once and future Central Library and serves up a mighty satisfying disk. Its taste is not an imitation of anybody else's, but in balance, it never seems to try too hard to be different. With kids in tow, I went for basic cheese, but more adventurous sorts might want to consider such dare-ya's as Datsa Big Ugly, which comes piled with anchovies, Cajun shrimp, onion and spicy sausage; and Datsa Maui, with ham, pineapple, green pepper and red onion.

Whatever you go for, there's free parking, which makes it a great lunch stop for those leaving a morning meeting downtown or those too early for an afternoon appointment. Or those who want to grab dinner before the show. Or those who were in the mood for a good book but then, halfway downtown, remembered that the library isn't going to reopen for another dozen or so years (at this rate).

By that time, the city might be the pizza capital of the Midwest.

Okay, it won't, but a boy can dream.

Datsa Pizza, 907 N. Pennsylvania St.
423-3940

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