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## Cheap eats: Larkburger

By Rebecca Risch  
The Denver Post

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Article Last Updated: 11/20/2007 12:59:36 PM MST

There's your typical fast-food burger, and then there's your fast-food burger with truffle aioli, organic tomatoes and Tillamook cheddar, cooked to order and tucked into an environmentally friendly, biodegradable wrapper.

Although only about a dollar more than the burgers you'll find in drive-thrus the world over, the ones at Larkburger in Edwards are as craveable but simply more refined.

The menu is short and pretty straightforward: The Larkburger ( 1/3-pound of Coleman Natural Beef); The Little Lark (a half-sized version) and The Truffle Burger (a Larkburger with truffle aioli). Each comes on a soft chewy bun with tomatoes, leaf lettuce, sliced onions and house-made special sauce. There is also a turkey burger, a grilled cheese and the Amy Burger - a roasted portabella mushroom with grilled onions - that my husband, a devoted carnivore, found to be the most delicious item he tried.

While truffle oil was a smokin' hot culinary trend a few years back, it seems to have fallen out of favor. But there was a reason for its popularity. It tastes good. And Larkburger has continued to embrace it fully. You can add it to any burger for \$1, find it on the fries or taste it in the salad dressing. Beware though, you'll probably want to pick one of these options - a little goes a long way.

The fries are thin and tasty, and you can get them plain or topped with parmesan cheese in addition to the truffle flavoring. The other sides are healthy options:

pop-in-your-mouth soybeans are a nice departure from the typical burger joint, although they could use a bit more salt, and the organic salad with field greens, tomatoes, soybeans and cucumbers features a choice of homemade truffle ranch or tamarind-ginger dressing.

At Larkburger, you'll order at the counter and choose a table or booth to eat. But there are no ready-to-go paper-wrapped sandwiches sitting under the heatlamps. It will take a few minutes for your order to arrive. One of the benefits is you can choose how done you want your burger and what you want on it.

The Five Dollar Shake is also made fresh to order with Breyers chocolate or vanilla ice cream and is a full 24 ounces of goodness. You can also get soda, beer and wine.

Dining in is a pleasant experience. Larkburger has a stylish interior of silver, white and green, with hip lighting and wood paneling.

Larkburger is the brainchild of dining expert Thomas Salamunovich, owner and chef of the highly regarded and special-occasion Larkspur Restaurant in Vail. It's great to have a man with such credentials create a place for the rest of us to indulge in an everyday treat.

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### Larkburger Hamburgers.

105 Edwards Village Blvd. Edwards, 970-926-9336. Hours: Open daily 11 a.m.- 8 p.m. [Larkburger.com](http://Larkburger.com). \$3.95-\$6.75

**Front burner:** You can't beat the price for a delicious meal in the expensive Vail Valley.

**Back burner:** It's a little tricky to find. Look for it next to the Post Office.

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*Tucker Shaw*

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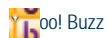


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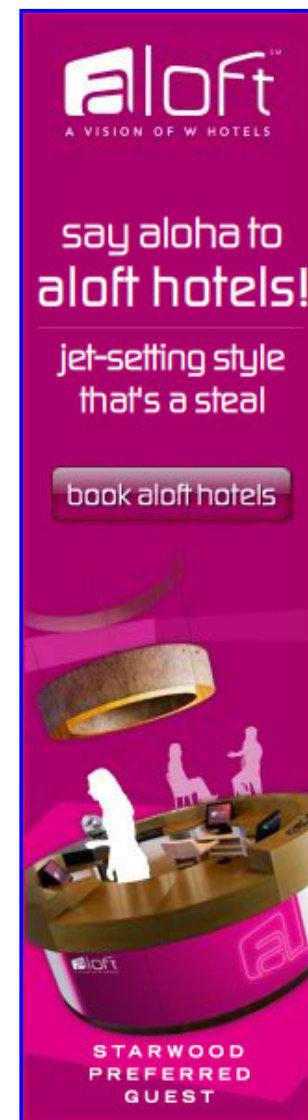
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