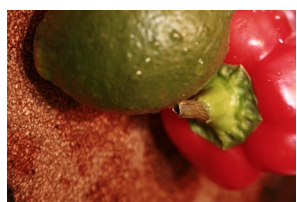


Alonso's By Kyle Gower



"My favorite burger is the Elvis, it's got peanut butter and bacon on it. It's the sweet and savory, it'll change the way you view the world" – Zach Hitchens



To most people, restaurants such as Miss Shirley's, Clark Burger, and even Chipotle are the hub of the Baltimore dining scene. Loyola students will go with their friends and parents, eager to show them the culinary delicacies Balti has to offer. However, the city has a hidden gem that the average student does not know about. This establishment has an atmosphere that can only be matched by its cuisine.

"I've been going there for years. Alonso's is by far my favorite place to eat in the area. I used to go a lot more when I had time and wasn't as busy with work but back in the day, I would call a few of my buddies up and we would all go. That was the spot." – Zach Hitchens, Assistant Director of Student Support and Wellness Promotion at Loyola

Alonso's is an American grill known for its signature burgers, endless number of TVs, and an extensive beer list (for those who may care to indulge). The two-story complex is located right next to Namaste, an Indian

food restaurant, and down the street from Miss Shirley's. Only a five-minute walk from Campion or Newman and a fifteen-minute walk, at most, from the Hillside portion of campus, location makes this establishment a convenient option. A wide variety of students are often seen eating at Alonso's throughout the week. Upperclassmen and underclassmen alike enjoy the inviting atmosphere of the sports bar. It is also not uncommon to see Loyola professors dining or grabbing something to drink there. Between the inviting staff members and the plethora of televisions playing various sporting events, the diner never experiences a dull moment. The unique, open atmosphere allows for friendly exchanges between patrons. Alonso's connects the Loyola community with the surrounding Baltimoreans, which creates a special environment.

Although some Loyola

students may have heard of Alonso's, they almost certainly do not know the unique history behind it. The Baltimore Orioles currently play their home games at Oriole Park in Camden Yards. They moved there in the spring of 1992. Previously, Memorial Stadium had been the stomping ground for the O's and because it was on the way back, the players would go to Alonso's after every game. In other words, if people wanted to "meet an Oriole after the games, they were headed to Alonso's," says Zach.

"It has a really special place in Baltimore history that I don't think a lot of students know about. But that's what I think is really cool about it; it's been around for a long time and it's a place where people could not only have great food, but meet their heroes as well and I think that's pretty cool." – Zach Hitchens

Sadly, as the stadium collapsed, the tradition of meeting the

players ceased with it and management then switched hands shortly after. The ritualistic Oriole-Alonso's runs soon became a thing of the past and a forgotten legend to many people. However, the locals and those who continue to dine at Alonso's will always know the history and significance of the restaurant, and that will never die. Sports memorabilia such as jerseys and plaques align the walls in a nostalgic fashion. As long as the restaurant stands, the spirit of the game lives on through its famous burgers.

Alonso's signature burgers allow the establishment to shine through the Baltimore food scene, despite its lack of recognition. These burgers, with an assortment of tastes, can suit the needs of any burger lover. For the meat buff, there are burgers such as the Porky, topped with pulled pork and bacon, or the Hangover, topped with a fried egg, bacon, and cheese. For a lighter burger, the Frenchie—served with baby spinach, herbed mayonnaise, and brie, is always a viable option. For the surf n' turf aficionado, the Chesapeake—topped with crab dip and cheddar cheese—may be lethal. Nonetheless, of all the burgers offered by Alonso's, there is one that stands in a class of its own. This scrumptious burger is without-a-doubt for the sweet and savory enthusiast, a daring mixture of flavors mashed between two buns.

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No matter what your choice burger consists of, Alonso's can thoroughly accommodate every taste bud on the flavor pallet. Through its historic significance with the Baltimore Orioles, Alonso's has been given a certain esteemed reputation in the Baltimore community. Those students fortunate

enough to sink their teeth into an Alonso's signature burger know the life-changing effects these heavenly concoctions can have on a person. The restaurant as a whole is revered amongst the locals and symbolizes the essence of Baltimore. All things considered, Alonso's is still a fantastic place to grab a bite to eat. Who wouldn't want to dine where the former heroes of Baltimore dined? Although it may not be as well-known to the Loyola student as an eating establishment such as Miss Shirley's, Alonso's is certainly in a league of its own and a true hidden gem.