

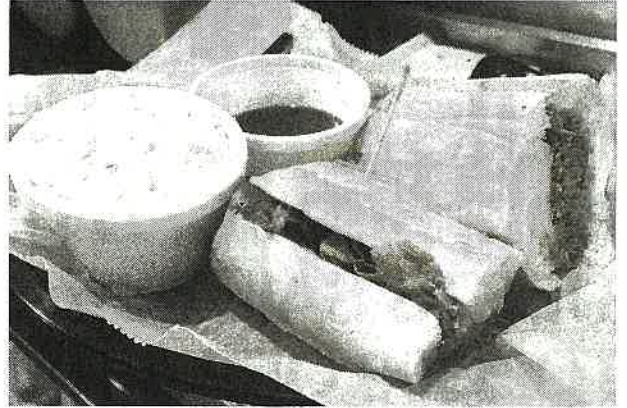
## THE ARTS

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

# Jax Thornton Park melds neighborhood deli and bar

BY LAUREN DELGADO  
Staff Writer

Jax Thornton Park is an appealing meld of neighborhood bar and deli set in Orlando's Thornton Park neighborhood. The location marks the return of a restaurant in downtown Orlando by owners Jack and Sandy Thompson, who opened a number of Jax locations in Central Florida years ago.



COURTESY JAX THORNTON PARK

The French dip sandwich at Jax Thornton Park features the classic combination of roast beef, provolone and onions.

## What I would try a second time

The Legend (\$8.95) stuffs copious slices of Genoa salami, cappicola, shaved ham, prosciutto and provolone cheese with lettuce, wheels of tomato and red onion slivers into a hero roll. Olive oil and the "secret sauce" made an already heavy sandwich even more rich — in a good way.

## What I didn't like

Fans of doughy pizza crust might want to avoid Jax's pita pizzas. The pita portion skews toward cracker rather than bread. We opted for the pepperoni version (\$8.95), which came with a scant amount of marinara sauce, and provolone and Swiss cheeses. Spice was missing from this dish.

## What I would put on Instagram

The space bears no resemblance to its previous tenant, the pan-Asian gastropub Baery. Instead, it has a more relaxed feel with a bar made of planks from a DeLand bowling alley, walls covered with barnwood and metal roofing, and a bar ceiling created from the long-closed Rosie O'Grady's on Church Street.

## Jax Thornton Park

**Where:** 617 E. Central Blvd., Orlando

**When:** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Saturday and noon-11 p.m. Sunday

**Cost:** \$7.75-\$10.75

**Beverages:** Beer, wine, liquor

**Wine by the glass:** Yes

**Attire:** Casual

**Extras:** Pet-friendly porch, indoor and outdoor seating, indoor bar, sports bar, happy hour

**Noise level:** Moderate

**Wheelchair access:** Good

**Credit:** Visa, American Express, Mastercard and Discover

**Call:** 407-440-4295

**Online:** Jaxthorntonpark.com and Facebook

It felt blissful to taste the toasted garlic sub after it was dipped into the au jus.

## How I was treated

Our meals were delivered in a timely manner by courteous servers who checked in on us regularly.

## My next visit

Jax's lengthy sandwich menu is likely to bring me back for a quick lunch in the restaurant — or take-out.

## For bar-hoppers

Craft-beer fans will find something to like in one of the restaurant's 28 taps. Cocktails and wine are available, too. Drink and food specials change daily.

## For those with special diets

Vegan diners will have a tough time with Jax's menu. Others on a special diet can design their own sandwich with gluten-free bread for an additional \$2.

## Other eats

A free and sizable jar of house-made pickles was a nice start to the meal. It continued with eight perfectly crunchy chicken wings (\$10). The medium buffalo sauce slanted toward sweet rather than tangy heat.

The French dip (\$8.95) didn't skimp on the roast beef, provolone and onions.

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