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Best Restaurant To Be Seen At: Big Rock Chop House

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The Real Best of Detroit 2007: Oral Pleasures

As soon as you pull up in front of Big Rock Chop House, you can tell that you've arrived somewhere significant. After the valet has pulled away with your car and you approach the beautiful, warmly lit exterior, make sure to adjust your tie or your seam ... you're about to be seen.

Stepping through the entrance, the first thing you might notice is the gorgeous, inviting, colorful lighting that softly illuminates the entire dining area. Subtle hues of red and blue float across the ceiling creating a feeling of almost other worldliness. Once you pry your eyes away from these ocular delights you start to notice something else: the people.

When asked what one could assume about somebody "seen" at Big Rock, General Manager Vera Day Rizer replied, "They're working," with a laugh. "They have a job." This is a pretty safe assumption. Which is not to say that Big Rock is a bank-breaking restaurant, but it does seem to appeal to a crowd that would be prone to use the phrase "expendable income" more than most. "They have a playful side. They enjoy an eclectic mix of food, drink and people," Rizer added.

Big Rock offers quite a few options when it comes to spots in which to be seen. There's the elegant dining room, home to frequent visits from local celebrities, including members of the Pistons, Red Wings and Slim Shady crew. There's also the indoor (and seasonally outdoor) Stone Terrace, gracefully draped in grapevines, and home to live music every Wednesday night. A short walk upstairs reveals the Got Rocks Ultra Lounge. Serious mood lighting, an inviting dance floor, elevated DJ booth that is home to live DJs Thursday through Saturday, and plenty of plush places to plop down and play it cool for a period are some of the elements making up this super-chic lounge. "I don't know if there is one spot that is 'best,'" Rizer said of Big Rock's potential "places to be seen." "There are so many different atmospheres. Really, you'll look good in any room here."

Home to delicious beers micro-brewed on site (don't miss the Imperial Stout), an amazing selection of wine and a menu that would make any mouth water, Big Rock truly has you covered for an entire evening out. "We have a lot of new ideas, new things coming, new DJs, entertainment," Rizer assured. "We're going to keep things exciting."

Come on out. Be seen.