

The Ramos House Cafe in San Juan Capistrano

On a trip down to San Juan Capistrano with my son a few weekends ago, we came upon this little place down a gravel road called The Ramos House Cafe. Weren't we lucky? The gravel road turned out to be The Los Rios Historical District and the cafe was a true find.

The decor of The Ramos House is hillbilly chic, with lots of rusted metal and patina. They even blast Woody Guthrie from the kitchen to round-out the whole "we're hicks, but we're cool" feeling.



We sat at a little table right next to the train tracks, which is considered live entertainment to a four-year-old. The wait staff was just how I like "my" wait staff—totally frantic. There is nothing that ruins my dining experience quicker than a lackadaisical, I'll-get-to-you-after-I-text-my-girlfriend, slow waiter. I want my wait person to be stressed-out, whipping around the restaurant in a panic at the thought of a water glass being half-empty.

I was a waitress for YEARS, and that's how I handled my tables. I want the same effort shown to me now that I don't have to even think about "side work" or black tennis shoes ever again. (Though this staff was all Converse—another reason to like them.)

These gals were demented with frenzied servitude; mastering the "drive-by" drink refill, bussing each other's tables, and buzzing around the kitchen like flies in a jar. I love that.



The food was excellent—fresh, original, and served in grand

portions. Check out their weekend brunch menu [here](#).



All in all, worth the trip and the cash you will have to throw down—at \$30 a person for brunch. And make sure to tip big for that kind of service.