Shack Savory, filling snacks for \$6 or less

Don Filippo

Restaurant

1133 Lexington Ave.

212-744-3610

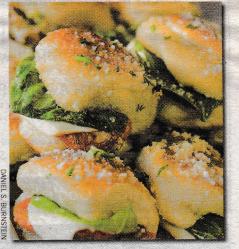
Teeny Weeny Panini

The simple, excellent panini I devoured in Milan bear no resemblance to panini stateside: overstuffed pressed sandwiches with oily Italian fixings, bad bread and brown grill marks. Thankfully, the itsybitsy, teeny-weeny panini at this homey neighborhood pizza joint are something else entirely: greasy, crusty garlic knots sliced in half and stuffed with a variety of fillings. You can try them all without busting your gut or your budget, because each one is only \$1.50!

At bustling Don Filippo (which proves out my insistence that you can always find good, down-home eats near hospitals), there was a line out the door, so I had

ample time to ogle the

offerings in their countertop case: chicken parmigiana, eggplant, fried shrimp and sundried tomato, mozzarella and basil. I tried the latter three, and of these the eggplant was my favorite. The plump eggplant slices were not dried-out and



coated in breadcrumbs but grilled-ooooh, deliciously squishy. With the mozzarella/tomato/basil, I got a preview of summer, much welcome on a raw and [betw. 78th & 79th Sts.] rainy spring day. And that was no shrimp in my garlic knot but a fat, breaded prawn. For taste per dollar, Don

Filippo's panini can't be beat, and the cozy, lively atmosphere is a plus as well. -Nancy J. Brandwein

> Got a snack attack to share? Contact NBrand@aol.com