



Costco Is Open for Free Lunch Again Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'

Do you know that COSTCO is open for free lunch again? With more and more Americans getting vaccinated, the country is starting to look ahead to a new normal. Costco is offering freeloaders to sample free snacks that can be turned into a

fabulous gourmet lunch with some skills. If you feel that you didn't have a complete fulfilling lunch by sampling the goodies, you are not doing it right.

I usually take several samples of mash potatoes, humus, Oscar Myers' bacon, salami and white fish (Michigan's specialty), bruschetta, an assortment of cheeses, and cambozola as those items meet my dietary requirements. It's possible that all those things may not be available every day, but you can still design a gourmet treat for yourself with four or five items only. After all, you are having a free lunch. And don't forget the desserts. I usually prefer Lindor chocolate truffles and red-velvet mini-cakes. In the worst case, you can still sample cheesecake. Not bad!

Costco doesn't set a limit on how many



rounds one can make to free food stalls.

You can visit the samples as many times as your stomach desires. Though Costco management gladly allows customers to eat free samples as many times as they prefer, it becomes embarrassing for a self-respecting person like me to look like a free-loader. I have a solution for that too. By this time everyone owns free facemasks. That's my preferred way to avoid embarrassment. I use a different facemask every time I make a new round along the free sample stands. That way, the food stall attendants, probably, don't recognize me.

Here are the best times to go to Costco for sampling free treats. Usually, Mondays and Tuesdays are the best days to score the most free food. Shoppers usually fill in their carts on Saturdays and Sundays, so there is less competition for free food samples on Mondays and Tuesdays. Should you go on a weekend, the best time to go is before 10 am or 11 am before the weekend rush hits. If you are a late riser like me, the best time to go is between 1 pm and 2 pm because all consignments are in by that time giving you more options to choose from. In case you want to beat the lunch rush, my experience tells me that 3 pm or 4 pm is a good time to sample food.

Many times, I take my bachelor friends from India who are here on an H1B visa to

Costco for matchmaking and obtaining a Green Card. Plenty of American-born Indian girls frequent Costco. It provides a good place for them to have a cost-free lunch date and a road to stay in America for good. Costco doesn't mind that. More customers generate more sales for them, anyway.

Working around all those tempting food is a good inflation beater. Don't believe me? Try grocery shopping, if you are not a Costco freeloader. You may thank me later for this great consumer advice. Bye for now!