

Magnificent Mex



Reviewed by: Laura Fulton

There's Mexican food and then there's fantastic Mexican food - El Sombrero is the home of the latter. Though some say the nature of the cuisine means all Mexican food is the same, the chefs at this authentic restaurant have proven that going the extra mile certainly makes a difference.

Like the Oaxaca style ceramic tiles on the tabletops and the catchy Latino music, the food at El Sombrero is authentic and gorgeous. The tender beef tacos fall apart in your mouth, while the crispy chicken tacos are made tactfully so that they don't fall apart in your hands. With their creamy, flavoursome sauce, the shrimp marianas are a great example of traditional gone uptown.

It's hard to choose from the extensive drinks and food menus, but you can be sure whatever you choose will be fresh, filling and tasty. The grilled Omani lobster gives a Mexican flare to a seafood standard, and the substantial chicken burritos and beef chimichangas are hearty

without being heavy.

In addition to the consistently excellent food, the ambiance at El Sombrero is worth the trip. The waiters, while attentive, won't rush you through your meal but rather allow you the time to savour each course and the company of your companions. Enjoy one of the private rooms that seat up to ten diners, or groove along with upbeat tunes of the Kanela Trio, and definitely plan to check out their Cinco de Mayo special – all you can eat and drink for the very cheery price of AED 165. We'll tip our sombrero to that ...

What? El Sombrero

Where? Sheraton Corniche, next to the Corniche Hospital

Why? Delicious food, outstanding service, engaging atmosphere

Why not? Tucked away at the worst end of Salam Street, some people may drive a few circles before finding their way into the parking lot

We say: Excellent; don't miss the Cinco de Mayo festivities on 5th May

Cost: Starters range from AED 40-60, mains AED 50-150

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