

Restaurant Review

SALSA'S

By Todd Justman

Overall we had a very enjoyable and tasty meal at Salsa's and Kelly and I definitely recommend it.

Salsa's Restaurant on Sardis Road North and Monroe Road (near Wal-Mart, next to Kinko's) recently revised its menu so if you've eaten here in the past you will recognize little. The menu expansion seems to have added a full complement of fajitas, a wider variety of traditional entrees (to include seafood) and more choices for the kids. What there's less of seems to be fewer of the traditional Mexican food selections that are combinations of tacos, enchiladas, etc. Fortunately you can still get all these in any combination you like!

Kelly had the regular chimichanga with ground beef. I ordered the fajita chimichanga, which was delicious and loaded with steak and grilled vegetables. The tortilla shell was tasty and crunchy, and the whole thing was covered with a nice queso sauce that had a bit of a kick to it. Strangely, while the meat was plentiful the rice and beans portions were smaller than most Mexican restaurants. Our toddler loved his cheese quesadilla and he gobbled up his rice. The tortilla soup is excellent and fresh.

The menu offers many authentic Mexican touches. Those who have visited Cancun or Cozumel note that unlike the menu at Taco Bell, true Mexican cuisine features lots of seafood. Salsa's offers dishes such as *camarones a la diablo* and *salmon al mojo de ajo*. Salsa's also stocks Jarritos Mexican sodas by the bottle, which are a very delicious departure from Coke and Pepsi and are highly recommended.

The atmosphere is a little cramped. The main room features two televisions – one a large projected screen on the wall. (The night we went they showed Game 1 of the World Series.) Their state inspection score is 96.5 which is pretty high. (Consider the Cheesecake Factory in the fancy South Park Mall only has a 90!) Service was friendly and responsive and our drinks never ran dry. Chips and salsa were gobbled up quickly. The only criticism is that the salsa was a little too mild, but at least your visiting relatives from Up North won't get their palates singed. The bar offers refreshing, tasty frozen margaritas by the pitcher, as well as sangria and Mexican beers. They also mix fruit drinks at the bar.

Unfortunately we couldn't fit in any desserts after those chimichangas but we look forward to trying the fried ice cream, sopapillas, or the Tres Leches cake. After we took home a take-out menu we saw that Salsa's offers an express lunch menu, served seven days a week. You can select the "Speedy Gonzalez" or lunch fajitas with chicken or steak for \$6.59.