

Epicurean Episodes

Star of India Fantastic Indian Cuisine!

THE DINING DETECTIVES DECIDED TO STAY IN PETALUMA FOR THE DAY and have lunch at the Star of India Restaurant in The Plaza Shopping Center. We had heard lots of good things about this restaurant and we were excited to taste for ourselves!

However, first we went downtown to do a little shopping. We needed a birthday gift for our friend Nancy and decided to go over to La Maison on the corner of Petaluma Blvd. and Western Ave. for some fragrant special potpourri. We also stopped in at Figment on Kentucky St. where we bought some decorative sea shell bowls that would be perfect for soup or salad dishes. It was also fun stopping into Barry Singer Gallery, Circle Gallery, Gallery One & Rocklin Jewelry. Downtown Petaluma certainly has something for everyone.

We drove over to The Plaza Shopping Center on the east side of town and were soon walking into The Star of India Restaurant. We were warmly greeted by Ram Pal, the restaurant owner who showed us to our table. The restaurant is very pleasant with the art of India on the walls and a lovely view of the very green Sonoma mountains. The sitar music in the background set the tone as we perused the menu. We started out with some Chai tea, wine and beer and were ready to taste the cuisine of India.



Tandoori mixed grill is a great way to try the many flavors.

Here are some of the dishes that we are pleased to highly recommend.

APPETIZERS:

Vegetable Samosa
Crisp patties stuffed with potatoes and peas with wild aromatic spices. Terrific!
Chicken Pakora
Chicken pieces marinated in yogurt, ginger, garlic, and batter fried. Excellent with the tasty sauce.

SOUP

Mulligatawny Soup
Lentil soup with chicken, herbs, and mild aromatic spices. This hot soup had a terrific aroma and is a must.

TANDOORI

Tandoor cooking is done in a clay oven with mesquite charcoal and is served sizzling.

Tandoori Mixed Grill
Includes Tandoori chicken, chicken tikka, seekh kabob, fish and sizzling vegetables. This is a great way to try the many flavors.

CHICKEN CURRY

Chicken Tikka Masala
Cubes of chicken tikka cooked tandoori style in a rich cream sauce. This was heavenly!

SEAFOOD

Shrimp Saagwala
Prawns cooked in a creamy spinach sauce. This was another dish that we enjoyed.

BREADS

Tandoori Bread
Roti freshly baked to order. These tasty flatbreads added to the meal.
Garlic Nan
Bread stuffed with garlic and spices.
Onion Kulcha
Bread stuffed with onion, dry mango and spices.

DESSERTS

Kheer
Basmati rice pudding served cold and sprinkled with almond and pistachio. Perfect rice pudding, light and creamy, is sure to please so you'd better save room.
Mango Ice Cream
Smooth and flavorful.

Wines are offered both by the glass or bottle. We enjoyed the Rodney Strong Chardonnay and the Geyser Peak Gewurztraminer which both paired well with the Indian spices in our entrees. We had to try Taj Mahal Premium Lager Beer from Bombay



THE DINING DETECTIVES

BY CAROL & JOE DAVIS
www.finediningdetectives.com



Lamb mushroom masala, chicken tikka masala, tandoori breads and shrimp saagwala were fresh and absolutely heavenly.

Breweries and were glad we did. It did taste "slow brewed for the connoisseur" as advertised and one large bottle lasted the whole meal and went well with all our food. We also had a Mango smoothie which was quite refreshing.

We had a lovely time at Star of India restaurant. The atmosphere was relaxed and pleasant. The Indian cuisine was spicy yet subtle, flavorful and piping hot. This was a superb dining experience rivaling many of the gourmet restaurants we have experienced over the years. The service was professional and the meal was well paced. Ram Pal has brought a unique style and taste to Petaluma. We can't wait to return to try some other menu choices.



Kheer, basmati rice pudding and mango ice cream were

STAR OF INDIA

299 No. McDowell, Petaluma, CA 94954
PHONE: 707-762-1328 • FAX: 707-762-2631

LUNCH: Monday-Saturday 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
DINNER: 7 Days a Week 5 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

- Major Credit Cards Accepted
- Private Parties/Special Events
- Catering
- Reservations Accepted
- Wine & Beer Served