



the River restaurant & beverage review



april
2010

Outside the office I am as passionate about food as I am about commercial real estate inside the office. And when it comes to my tastes in food, the more interesting, unique, and delicious, the better. One of my greatest hobbies is traveling the area and sampling some of the cities' most delicious concoctions and finest beverages. Each month I will feature a great local restaurant along with one of my favorite beverage selections.

La Cucaracha Restaurant

36 Dale Street South
St. Paul, MN
651-221-9682 | [Website](#)

My first visit to La Cucaracha was nearly 30 years ago when I lived and worked in St. Paul. At that time La Cucaracha was much smaller, comprising only of an order counter and a few tables. After several expansions the restaurant is much larger today, and still continues to serve a variety of authentic cuisine. La Cucaracha is located on the corner of Dale and Grand in St. Paul. You may be able to find on-street parking but if not, there is a lot in the alley behind the bar. To avoid or reduce wait time, I suggest arriving early or later to avoid the rush. Last Friday I enjoyed a fun-

filled dining experience with good friends Jeff and Cathy Scherber, and my significantly better-looking half, Barb. As usual I requested the large table in the back of the bar, which has a great view of the restaurant and little traffic.

The online menu identifies most available items but is not as complete as the official in-house version. On this visit we started with the Guacomole and Chips, and Ceviche, which includes Bay Scallops, Cod and Shrimp. I am a huge fan of Ceviche and was pleased with their version. My dinner included a sampling of items as follows: Chile Relleno served a la plancha (grilled on a metal plate versus deep fried); Nina's Cactus Stew (pork with Salsa Verde), which is identified as the spiciest item on the menu but proved not to be over the top; and a simple Shredded Roast Beef Taco. Yes, that was all for me. The a la Carte section of the menu is great for variety. The Tortas are a good choice as are the Tamales and Huevos Rancheros.

Where: Corner of Dale and Grand in St. Paul
When: Sun - Wed 11 am - 10 pm; Thurs 11 am - 11 pm; Fri - Sat 11 am - 12 pm
Cuisine: Mexican
What to Have: Ceviche, Tortas, Tamales and Huevos Rancheros
Atmosphere: Cozy and welcoming
Cost: \$7 to \$15



Bill's Beverage of the Month La Cucaracha has a full bar and several specialty beverages. On this occasion I chose the Bull Fighter Margarita made with Suaza Commemorativo, Cointreau and Grand Marinier. It wasn't the best margarita I've ever had (San Pedro Café, October 2009), but was a close second.