



Restaurants

Restaurant review: Cedar's Cafe

Mediterranean, Lebanese dishes in a cozy atmosphere

By Chris Kridler

Cedar's Cafe

4 palms

Where: 4100 N. Wickham Road, Melbourne

Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for lunch and 5 to 9 p.m. for dinner
Tuesday through Saturday

Call: 321-751-0000

Other: The intimate atmosphere and interesting menu make Cedar's a nice choice for date night. Learn more at www.cedarscafe.com.

I love the fact our culinary diversity is growing by the day in Brevard County. Who knew we could have so many Asian fusion/sushi restaurants, plus a large representation of other cuisines? Still, sometimes one craves something a little different, and Cedar's Cafe, which is marking five years in business, is a tasty alternative.

The restaurant in Melbourne's Post Commons shopping center offers a Mediterranean and Lebanese menu bursting with flavors, along with charming service. It's small, so a reservation is recommended.

We started with interesting Lebanese beer and a Lebanese cabernet suggested by the eatery's own walking-talking wine list (a knowledgeable server). I got to try an excellent bean soup with surprising hints of nutmeg and cinnamon.

Then we chose three starters to make up a mouth-watering appetizer platter for \$7.99. The hummus sparkled with lemon flavor; the stuffed grape leaves were fantastic; and the foole — fava beans in garlic, lemon and olive oil dressing, topped with yogurt — was excellent. Unfortunately, the restaurant was out of lamb when we arrived, so our choices were somewhat limited. Still, I enjoyed my Shish Taouk (\$14), garlicky chicken skewered with tomatoes and onions, with pine nuts and rice.

My husband got the Kafta (\$14), charbroiled ground steak on two skewers, seasoned nicely. It was good, but the chicken was better. We were offered several little desserts to choose from, and we picked out a few, including baklava — not as sweet as the Greek version — and all were enjoyable.

The cozy restaurant, which has indoor and a couple outside tables, also is open for lunch and offers several salads and wraps, soups, veggie options and more. What's more, it offers a pleasant adventure in eating.

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