

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

RESTAURANT REVIEWS BY 'OLIVER'

Stalking the Wild Burrito

Though it's far from new on the scene, we especially liked the food and the cheerful, but no nonsense, attitude at **Willy's Mexican Grill** on Roswell Road in the netherlands between Buckhead and Sandy Springs.

Hidden amongst larger stores in a slightly disheveled strip center, this brightly lit and happily decorated little shop frequently sports a line during the dinner hour. But thanks to a menu and ordering instructions writ large on the wall and counter help who greet confused customers with comments like "that's all right, I am getting paid to help you" the process moves right along.

In addition to burritos one may order enchiladas, facos, tostadas, quessadillas and tacos. The latter seem to be popular for takeout, no doubt to be consumed in front of the television, with beau coups of Budwieser while watching *Melrose Place*. And you thought that Gen-Xer's didn't appreciate drama!

In house, most everybody seems to be munching on burritos which come in three styles: regular—meat, rice beans and salsa; special—ditto plus cheese and guacamole; and super—double ditto, add sour cream, lettuce and tomato. Veggie variations simply ditch the meat—no tofu here.

Beans may be black or red, both equally well-cooked and seasoned. Meats include grilled steak slathered with garlic and cilantro and grilled chicken, sinaola style. Mama Sinaola alone knows what *that* means, but the end result has a nice burn and surprisingly complex spicing, even when it is over dry. But, hey, that's what the cheese is for, right?

Similar adjectives could be applied to the beef, though we'd like to see more evidence of cilantro, a problem easily rectified by asking for a handful of the stuff fresh when your dinner is being assembled. Pork carnitas and a green mole chicken are also available.

The ingredients are nicely distributed throughout the wrap and seem to take well to the addition of a decent green sauce and a thin, salmon colored one that adds a substantial bite.

We liked the flavor and texture contrasts offered up by the lettuce, tomato and sour cream, glares of approbation from our "Tortilla's rules" co-worker notwithstanding. Ditto the fresh tasting and salty chips declared "flavorless" by our co-diner.

Willy's Mexicana Grill, 4377 Roswell Road, (404) 252-2235

Ratings—

Food: ★★★ Service: ★★★

Value: ★★★ Concept/Style: ★★★

⊙: Better you should buy some peanut butter crackers at a convenience store.

★: Better than nothing, but not recommended.

★★: Serviceable, but you can do better.

★★★: Definitely worth the trip & the money.

★★★★: Consistently better than good.

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