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## Mela Indian Cuisine

★★★★☆ based on 1 review

Category: Indian

1921 Avenue Rd  
Toronto, ON M5M 4A2

(416) 782-9934

[www.melaindiancuisine.com/](http://www.melaindiancuisine.com/)

Price Range: \$\$

Accepts Credit Cards: Yes

Attire: Casual

Good for Groups: Yes

Good for Kids: Yes

Takes Reservations: Yes

Delivery: Yes

Take Away: Yes

Waiter Service: Yes

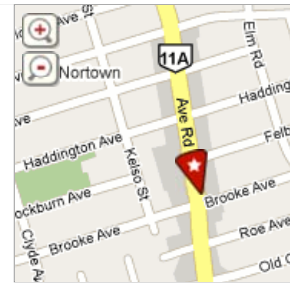
Wheelchair Accessible: No

Outdoor Seating: Yes

Alcohol: Full Bar



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### 1 review for Mela Indian Cuisine



Elite '10

#9

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Reuben Z

Toronto, ON

★★★★☆ 2/21/2010 1 photo

I encountered what I thought was an insatiable craving for Indian food the other day, and specifically for sweet chicken korma and peshwari naan. I checked Yelp, I Googled, and only in the dark recesses of a restaurant listing website did I see that someone in Toronto actually carried the naan I was looking for.

Let me explain. I've lived in the UK. I know what Indian food is about. And despite what my expatriate Indian friends tell me, no one cooks Indian as well as British Indians. So I clicked that little link, and it led me to Mela, a place that promised the 'fine art of Indian cuisine.'

I usually take such statements in jest, not because the owners would like me to, but because such grandiose claims are usually based on biased and false pretenses. In any case, Mela does, indeed, offer the fine art of Indian cuisine, and gave me exactly what I was looking for.

The chicken korma I ordered was covered in almond slices, and was thick, with just enough cashew powder and coconut that I could taste and not feel like I was eating dessert. The chicken pieces were large and tender, and were surprisingly thigh meat. I personally cook korma with chicken thighs, but have only ever seen it cooked elsewhere with breast.

The second main dish was the chicken tikka, a wholly British creation that apparently can't be found in India, and the three of us sharing thought it was possibly the softest, most 'fall-apart' chicken breast we had ever had. It was ordered as 'medium' spiciness, but was more than palatable for me. It arrived on a long platter, in six massive cubes.

The third dish was lamb vindaloo, which I tried, but couldn't try again because of the heat. I was assured that it was terrific. The most I can say is that it was very soft pulled lamb.

We ordered several peshwari naans, which is a traditional North Indian bread topped with different types of nuts and colourful candied fruits, and filled with some type of sweet cream paste. It's probably the greatest achievement of humanity, and Mela is the first place I've had it in Toronto. While not as decorated and elaborate as the British do it, it was much more than I expected, and I was thrilled to be having it. I should add that it's surprisingly not on the dinner menu, and only on the take-out menu. They should capitalize on this kind of thing!

We were served pappadoms with pineapple chutney and two types of sauces (one red and mild, the other green and spicy - counterintuitive, right?) when we sat. The three servers that were attending to us were all very kind and always around when we needed something (although we were the only ones there, arriving just after they opened for dinner).

The restaurant decor was nice, and particularly nice for an Indian restaurant. We were surprised that there was no cooking smell whatsoever, and that the Indian music they were playing was mellow and not at all Bollywood-ish. The washrooms were very new and clean.

Things we didn't like:

- a couple of the paper menus were soiled with drink spills
- one of the servers didn't know how to describe how sweet the korma was, and it was obvious she hadn't tried it
- cans of pop were \$2.50 each

Despite those all being inexcusable things, that's all in terms of complaints! I'm going to be a regular customer here, and will be happy to raise my rating to a full 5 stars if they work on or

correct those issues.

Summary: the food was stellar, and the entire staff was terrific. I hope to introduce Mela to everyone that I know.

Was this review ...? Useful (7) Funny (3) Cool (5)

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