

Restaurant Marrakesh in Epcot's World Showcase: A Walt Disney World Dining Review

by Jennifer Shorey Arnold, PassPorter Guest Contributor

For those willing to take the time to really explore the Moroccan Pavilion in Epcot's World Showcase, you will find a fabulous treat.

Tucked away in the far back of the pavilion just past the Aladdin and Jasmine meet and greet is Restaurant Marrakesh. This oasis from the heat and crowds offers an enjoyable and delicious dining experience.

Perhaps you are unsure if you would like Moroccan cuisine. If this is the case, take a moment to speak with a cast member. Often you will find a cast member near the front of the Moroccan Pavilion with a display sign and menu advertising the restaurant. We have always found the cast members to be willing to discuss and perhaps recommend a few food options for those interested in trying something new or those maybe just a little timid about exploring a new food option. Personally, I have found the options at Restaurant Marrakesh to be generally mild on spice which allows for even sometimes picky eaters, like myself, to take a little step into something different. Also, since it appears that many view this restaurant as having a more daring menu compared to some of the other dining options in Epcot, we often find that we can easily skip the Advance Dining Reservation and just arrive when we're hungry. Most of the time, we have experienced little to no wait! This has been especially true if we are not dining during peak lunch or dinner hours and if it's not an extremely busy time of year for the park such as the holiday season. If we are on a tight schedule or if it is very busy, we will err on the side of caution and make a reservation to ensure seating is available.

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□ Before you visit the restaurant, make it a point to take a few moments to wind your way through the beautiful architecture and decor of this delightful pavilion. Take a few moments to peek in the shops or stop by and get a photo with Aladdin and Jasmine. You'll be glad you did! After taking some time to explore and immerse yourself in the space, you will soon reach the back of the Pavilion and the entrance to Restaurant Marrakesh.

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□ When you arrive, check-in at the greeter's stand located just inside the entrance for your Advance Dining Reservation or to inquire about the availability of a walk-up seating. Very soon you will be beacons back to the dining room and guided to your seat. As you enter the space, you

may feel as though you have arrived at a palace! Immediately, you are immersed in the restaurant's ornately decorated walls and ceiling. Look up and you are greeted with stained glass lanterns that provide a gentle glow, illuminating this wonderful space. Although the overall room is fairly large in size for a Disney park restaurant, the lovely lighting and decor create an intimate atmosphere drawing you in to relax and enjoy. Throughout the lunch and dinner dining hours, you may be entertained by live performances including musicians and a belly dancer. Adding to the fun, we have found that it is not uncommon to have the belly dancer encourage children and sometimes even adults to join in the dancing.

Restaurant Marrakesh has both a lunch and dinner menu and the restaurant counts as a Table Service for those resort guests on the Disney dining plan. If you're paying out of pocket for your meal, you may want to consider visiting Restaurant Marrakesh for lunch since dinner prices are a tad higher. Currently, lunch entree prices range from \$16.99 -- \$24.99 and for dinner, the prices range from \$21.99 -- \$28.99. Restaurant Marrakesh offers a 10% discount for Walt Disney World Annual Passholders and a 20% discount for Disney Vacation Club and Tables in Wonderland members.

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□ If you are wanting to try a selection of Moroccan dishes during your visit, the restaurant has a few options on the appetizer and entree sections of the menu that allow you to try multiple items on one plate. One of the options on the appetizer menu for both lunch and dinner is the Appetizer Combination for Two. This is a great option that gives you a little taste of a few items including the beef brewat rolls, chicken bastille, and jasmine salad. An item on the entree lunch menu is the Sultan Sampler offering grilled brochette of chicken, beef brewat roll, and chicken bastille with vegetable couscous. Both the lunch and dinner menus offer lots of great items to explore but you will find that the dinner menu does offer an even larger selection compared to that of the lunch menu.

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□ Make sure that you leave room for dessert! Along with the traditional baklava and bastilla, Restaurant Marrakesh has a yummy dish named Marrakesh Delight. This flavorful dish contains mint ice cream, fruit salad, and toasted almonds in orange blossom water. It is perfect to cool you off in the warm weather and provide a satisfying sweet treat to close out a delicious meal.

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□ On your next visit to Epcot, make a point to perhaps step outside your comfort zone and try this hidden gem!

About The Author: Jennifer is a Disney enthusiast and loves to visit Walt Disney World and Disneyland with her husband as often as possible.

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Recently, she became a graduate of the College of Disney Knowledge and a travel agent specializing in Disney vacations with Storybook World Travel!

Article last updated: 05-12-2017

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