

SANTA FE MEXICAN RESTAURANT IN SANDWICH HAS BEST MARGARITAS AROUND

— Sandy Conrad
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Santa Fe Mexican Restaurant claims that the Margaritas are their specialty and many people agree they are the very best to be found in the Fox Valley area. Located at 132 E Church Street (Route 34) in Sandwich (815/786-6737), the well-established eatery opened back in 1981; the family owned and operated restaurant, founded by Irineo & Teresa Jimenez, is now staffed by second generation family members. The cozy, friendly atmosphere boasts nothing fancy but the fresh and delicious food keeps regulars coming back. The Margaritas have been voted the “best” for over 30 years. Family friendly, the menu features items made from scratch with fresh ingredients, served in generous portions. It includes many gourmet and specialty entrees and gluten free options.

Appetizers include either a full or half size Cincronizada (a flour tortilla with grilled ham, onions, tomatoes, cheese and sour cream); Combination Tray (3 Nachos, 2 Flautas, & 3 Dressed Peppers served with guacamole and sour cream); Dressed Jalapeno Peppers (wrapped in cream cheese, breaded and deep fried); several different styles of Nachos (with chicken, beef, Mexican sausage, steak or shrimp); Chile con Queso (with Chorizo or Beef); Mexican Pizza (with steak or shrimp) and Chicken Wings.



Sandwiches, served with French Fries, include Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers, Ham & Cheese, Club, Patty Melt on Rye, BLT or Chicken Breast. A La Carte items are Enchiladas, Burritos, Flautas, Chimichangas, Tacos Longy Style, Quesadillas, Tostados, Taco Salad (with beef, chicken, or seafood), Chalupas, Tamales, and Soft or Hard Shell Tacos (with chicken, ground beef or steak).

Dinners, all of which include rice and beans, feature Enchiladas (with chicken, beef, cheese, seafood or a Mexicanas special version); a Trio of Enchiladas (1 cheese, 1 chicken, 1 beef); a Taco, Quesadilla or Chimichanga plus Enchilada; Quesadillas; Flautas; Burrito & Flauta; Burritos (choice of beef and beans or chicken); Chimichangas; Tamales; Chimichanga & Tamale; Steak Chimichanga (chunks of steak and green peppers, onions, tomatoes, cooked in a mild sauce – wrapped in a flour tortilla, deep fried with sour cream and guacamole); 3 versions of Tacos; a Tostada Platter; Burrito Grande (with beef, chicken or steak) and Seafood Quesadillas (with melted Oaxaca cheese, shrimp and crawfish).



For those who prefer something spicy, they should order Chilaquiles.

Steaks & More dishes include rice, beans and tortillas and feature a Chef's Special (shish-ka-bob with cheese, beef or chicken Enchilada and stuffed pepper with cheese); Carne Asada a la Tampiquena (skirt steak); Steak a la Mexicana (prime beef sautéed to taste with green peppers, tomatoes and onions); Steak, Chicken, Shrimp or a Combo of Fajitas; Pork Chops, Chicken or Shrimp Ranchero; Chile Relleno or 8 Bacon Wrapped Shrimp.

Vegetarians can choose Quesadillas, Fajitas, Burritos or Tostados. Side Orders include Salad, Rice, Beans, Sour Cream, Japalenos or French Fries which can be added to any order.

Children under twelve years of age can order a Kid's Meal which comes with choice of French fries, rice or beans to accompany Chicken Fingers, a Quesadilla, Enchilada or Taco, or Grilled Cheese Sandwich.

Authentic Mexican desserts include Flan (vanilla custard); Sopapillas (fried dough served with honey or chocolate sauce); Ice Cream; a Strawberry Empanada (flour tortilla filled with strawberries, deep fried, served with ice cream and topped with whipped cream and chocolate sauce); and Canelitas - Cinnamon Crisps (flour tortilla, deep fried, sprinkled with powdered sugar and cinnamon, served with ice cream, whipped cream and chocolate sauce).

Drinks include the famous Margaritas (served by the glass, in half or full pitchers, in blue, strawberry and mango flavors); ten Tequila Selections; nine foreign and eight Domestic Beers; 3 Beers on Tap; three each White and Red Wines; Soft Drinks, Juices and Kiddie Cocktails.

Hours are Tuesday through Thursday, 11 AM to 9 PM, Friday & Saturday, 11 AM to 11 PM, Sunday, noon to 8 PM (closed Monday).