

Ring of Fire

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Great Mexican: Mission Accomplished

Mission Mexican Restaurant

610 E. Broadway - 686-8226

www.missionmexican.com

Fare: Mexican

Entrees under \$7

Reviewed by Shannon Rogers and Dominique Lainez

The Aztec façade of the Mission stands out amongst the slew of restaurants along Franklin Boulevard; yet another distinguishing point is their cuisine. Last night we dined at the Mission and enjoyed perhaps the best Mexican food we've ever tasted. As rich in flavor as the cuisine is the history of the Mission itself. Owner Frank Krebs opened the Mission in 1978 after graduating from UO. The site, which used to house an Exxon gas station, was transformed into an authentic Mexican restaurant complete with tiles imported from south of the border. The authenticity doesn't stop in the décor. All of the Mission's cooks are from Nayarit, Mexico, and most have been serving up quality fare alongside Frank for the past 26 years.

Promptly after being seated, we were greeted by a friendly face, a large basket of chips and the Mission's traditional salsa, their exquisite guacamole and their famous homemade cheese dip. Their selection of entrees range from traditional Mexican dishes to salads to heart- and Atkins-friendly options. All entrees fell in the \$6-\$10 range—a real benefit for the frugal college student. Following Frank's suggestions, we sampled a myriad of dishes that would satisfy even the heartiest of appetites. First was the chicken fajitas, accompanied by a large mound of Spanish rice and beans covered with melted cheese. Next was the combination platter chicken enchilada and beef tamale, drizzled in a thick enchilada sauce, covered in cheese and served with rice and beans. On top of that, we were also able to sample the Mission's most authentic dish - the beef carnitas, a taco filled with traditionally prepared beef and a mixture of onions, peppers, jalapenos and tomatoes. The carnitas impressed us both and definitely had some bite, leading us to the fried ice cream that provided the cool-down needed. The fried ice cream was nearly the size of a bowling ball and was covered in whipped cream and strawberry sauce. As full as we were, the dessert was so delicious we found the motivation to put a significant dent in the decadent treat.

The Mission has fantastic, quality Mexican cuisine at a price you can afford. They're also extremely accommodating to the University community as they accept university purchase orders, making their takeout and catering services, offering numerous party platters, a great option for student-run and University groups. We were extremely satisfied upon leaving the Mission and will be headed back for their \$5.99 beer and burrito special on Monday and Tuesday nights. Next time you're in the mood for great authentic Mexican and an atmosphere to match, stop by the Mission Mexican Restaurant.

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