

BELLY TAQUERIA'S  
AFFORDABLY  
AWESOME TACOS

PHOTO BY TRASK BEDORTHA



# AIN'T NO BELLY FLOP

*Belly's new taco shop is the perfect partner* BY ANDY VALENTINE

**F**or those who have had the pleasure of eating at local dinner phenomenon Belly, it's incredibly difficult to beat, but the powers that be at the restaurant have decided to further the Belly name with a new location specifically for tacos. The partnering restaurant location, Belly Taqueria, is just as delicious as the original spot, though it's less expensive, and the food is served in smaller portions. This, however, does not mean that you won't leave with your belly brimming with Belly.

If you finish, say, one beer-battered, deep-fried scallop taco and still have a hankering for more (maybe lengua this time!) then the waiters and waitresses will simply take multiple orders on a need-to-eat-more basis. And we should probably sit down and discuss the chorizo dish, "El Flameado," for a second, because, honestly, it's a delight, and that's all there is to it. The house-made chorizo is delectable and lip-smackingly juicy, and the whole thing is topped with flaming cheese. Yeah — the cheese is actually on fire when it arrives at your table.

Indoor and outdoor seating is available, and the atmosphere in both of these scenes is worth checking out. Inside, the place is decorated as gloriously and welcomingly as any Eugene hot spot should be, and it's nice to hear, literally, that the folks staffing the spot aren't afraid to let the music blare once in a while ("Thriller" never sounded better).

The prices at Belly Taqueria, as previously mentioned, are deftly lower than the original Belly restaurant, with most of the tacos on the menu ringing up at \$3-\$4. The new restaurant's taco tradition originated with Taco Mondays at Belly. The highest priced item on the entire taqueria menu, as far as food goes, is the El Flameado, which comes in at \$6. Not bad for a big ol' mountain of cheese and sausage and a huge tortilla, eh? The drinks aren't priced all that badly, either, with delicious (and therefore deadly) sangria coming in at six bucks. And I do believe they are sporting a hibiscus mojito, also; I challenge you to *not* enjoy washing your food down with that.

So if you're in the mood for gourmet badassery — the kind that only the folks over at Belly are laying down — but your pocketbook is a little bit strapped, then head for Belly Taqueria; it won't disappoint, and pretty soon you'll have a bellyful of Mexican food-babies to take home and share the memories with. ■

*Belly Taqueria is located at 291 E. 5th Ave.; for info call 687-8226 or visit eatbelly.com*

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