

Readers' Choice Awards



Photo by Lynette Rae McAdams

Trina Edwin with a round of cocktails at La Cabana de Raya in Astoria.

BEST LATIN FOOD

La Cabana de Raya

Astoria, Oregon

Runner-up: The Rio Cafe, Astoria

Honorable Mention: Tacos El Catrin, Warrenton

By LYNETTE RAE McADAMS

Earning the Readers' Choice Award again this year for Best Latin Food, La Cabana de Raya continues to shine for producing some of the finest, freshest, most authentic Mexican food anywhere on the coast.

Owned by Miguel and Leticia Raya, and operated entirely by their family, this small restaurant overlooks

Youngs Bay and has been open since 2011.

"My dad worked at the cannery and my mom was a shift manager at McDonald's," says Geovanni Raya, 24, one of the couple's sons who cooks and also helps manage the business. "They did that for 14 years, and then one day my dad said, 'I know we can do better.'"

A product of their hard work and willingness to



Photo by Lynette Rae McAdams

Geovanni Raya, right, stands with his fiancée, Trina Edwin, at La Cabana de Raya in Astoria. Raya's parents opened the restaurant in 2011.

dream, the family's restaurant now has an enormous local following and with only one visit, it's easy to see why: Every customer is treated like family, and every dish is made from scratch with loving care.

Traditional favorites from mainland Mexico, such as chicken tinga empanadas, gorditas, and a classic chile relleno, mingle on the menu

with coastal specialties like ceviche and fish tacos — all of it served with made-to-order, hand-pressed corn tortillas and cumin-scented beans and rice. Exceptionally quick and friendly service is a wonderful bonus to every delicious dish (and the specialty tequila cocktails and magnificent water views don't hurt either).

"My favorites are my lo-

cal," says Geovanni with an enormous smile. "They trust us now and say, 'make me whatever you'd like.'

"Good food makes people happy," he adds, "and that's all we want to do."



Photo by Lynette Rae McAdams

Handmade empanadas and a burrito mojado with fresh enchilada sauce from La Cabana de Raya in Astoria.

La Cabana de Raya is located at 35431 U.S. Highway 101, just across the Old Youngs Bay Bridge from Astoria. The restaurant is open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday. You can order food to go by calling 503-325-3656.

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