



Photos by Peter Korchnak

**ABOVE:** Felicia Eby, left, and Samantha Steerman enjoy dishes at the bar of El Jarocho Mexican Restaurant in Astoria. **RIGHT:** A tilapia taco, accompanied by a limonada, or Mexican lemonade. **BELOW:** Rojas carries plates to a lunch crowd.



*Continued from Page 12*

Sweeping views of the Columbia River at a location right on the Astoria Riverwalk combine for a steady flow of hungry customers.

“I was shocked how many people walk by here,” Inzunza said, including many familiar faces from the Seaside restaurant. And, she adds that the pair “get a lot of local support.”

The restaurant’s name originates in a nickname for people from the region of Veracruz, where Sanchez hails from.

“He puts his jarocho touch in his cooking,” Inzunza, originally from Mexicali, Baja California, said. The restaurant’s extensive lunch and dinner menus feature classic Mexican fare.

Original items include la botanita, a vast seafood appetizer platter, botana, with shrimp, mussels, clams, octopus and oysters served with fresh vegetables.

A not-so-secret, off-the-menu item is aguachiles, shrimp cooked in lime and

served with a spicy green sauce, onions and cucumbers.

“We’re pretty open,” Inzunza said. “If you come in looking for something that’s not on the menu and we have the ingredients, we’ll make it.”

The restaurant’s main goal is to make customers feel at home, with good food and good service.

Sofia Rojas has been serving El Jarocho customers since opening day. “I enjoy what I do because we have customers from different countries and I can talk with people,” said Rojas, who speaks French and some Italian. “And I like to prepare drinks. You need to try the mojitos here.”

Margaritas at El Jarocho feature a homemade mix. In addition to the classics, house variations include pineapple-jalapeño, mango-chamoy, avocado and cucumber-lime.

In summertime, the restaurant has been turned into a late-night bar on Friday and Saturday nights, open until 2 a.m. A plan for next year is adding outdoor seating along the river-facing wall.



The Freedom  
MARKET

YOUR #1 PREMIER CANNABIS RETAILER

LARGEST SELECTION  
FRIENDLY & KNOWLEDGEABLE STAFF  
ELITE PRODUCTS

-- For Washington Residents --

**Ilwaco**  
(8am - 10pm)  
360-261-7200  
133 Howerton Ave

**Cathlamet**  
(8am - 10pm)  
360-849-4504  
327 WA-4

**Kelso**  
(8am - 12am)  
360-636-0420  
820A West Side Hwy

**Longview**  
(8am - 12am)  
360-703-3229  
971 14th Ave

WARNING: This product has intoxicating effects and may be habit forming. There may be health risks associated with the consumption of this product. For use only by adults 21 and over. Keep out of reach of children. Marijuana can impair concentration, coordination, and judgement. Do not operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of this drug.