

Casa Guadalajara Reviews

Casa Guadalajara:

Missy M.
La Mesa, CA

8/13/2010

This is our absolute favorite Mexican restaurant in San Diego.

We go here every couple of weeks and it's very child friendly. Sometimes there is a wait, but it's never too long (we usually arrive between 6 and 7pm).

My favorites are the chicken and mango quesadilla and the tequila lime shrimp. I rotate between the two of them and then I throw in something new from time to time. The enchiladas are good and my husband loves their burritos.

I hear they have a good happy hour 4-7 every day with free appetizers!

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Jenny Q.
Miami-Dade, FL

Simply DELICIOUS ! Great fresh food and best strawberry margarita!

Harley G.
San Diego, CA

8/1/2010

Great corner location in a small parking lot. Parking can be difficult on weekends because tourist come into the area for this great food. Wait time is usually about 10-30 minutes, so be patient. I was seated right away and within minutes the server came to take the drink order. I ordered a carne asada chimichangas which was priced fair at \$13 with rice and beans. Food came within 20 minutes. While eating server came at least three times to check on the overall experience. Overall, great customer service, great tasting food and big portions so come hungry!

Raquel C.
San Diego, CA

7/26/2010

I went here last Saturday for a friend's birthday party. 5 Stars all around! Always loved all the Mexican restaurants in Old Town, I think this is the only one I haven't been to. Unlimited Chips and Salsa and yummy Horchata! (Only downside to Horchata was that's it's only one refill per visit). I shared the Chimichanga and Deep Fried Ice Cream with my husband and I was still full.

Everyone else has already mentioned the parking - yes it can be bad, so try to go on a non-busy day and time. Also loved the Mariachi band. It was perfect entertainment for my almost 2-year old son who LOVES music. Can't wait to go back.

Guy R.

Los Angeles, CA

6/28/2010

Probably the best Mexican food I've ever eaten, and that's saying a lot for a Southern California native! Service is notoriously slow to start, mostly due to how busy the place always is. Definitely get an order of their fresh homemade tortillas.

Alan S.
San Diego, CA

6/21/2010

I have been here numerous times and always liked it, however what prompted me to write up a review was a birthday party I had this past weekend.

I called several weeks before I was having a large birthday party (about 15-20 people) and they said that they were booked that night with a party of 80 and 30. After speaking with them more, they said ok and took my reservation - I was thrilled!

Everyone arrived at 7 and the hostess and wait staff were at our beckon call with great attitudes. The drinks were good, the food was delicious, and the environment is amazing (we sat outside under the trees and patio lights.) I told the waiter it was my gf birthday and they brought out a dessert and the mariachi band played. The experience could not have been any better.

And to top it off...they split up the checks which they usually do not do.

The experience was perfect and would recommend this place to anyone wanting to have a romantic date, a get together of friends, or a birthday party!

Ruby D.
San Diego, CA

5/30/2010

I think this may turn into a weekly lunch place! I just tried this place out yesterday, and I STILL can't get over their amazingly delicious ceviche. I've been craving it for about a month, and boy did it hit the spot! Ugh, seriously....it was GOOD. I also had a medium margarita that didn't taste that good (my lime on the rocks was nasty compared to my friend's yummy strawberry blended), but it definitely crept up on me. Amazing ceviche+strong margaritas=HEAVEN. I'm actually contemplating going back today and getting their ceviche to go. Mmmmm

Tony L.
San Diego, CA

Updated - 5/27/2010

I already reviewed this place but it's been a couple of years. Since it's still my favorite mexican restaurant in town. I will say there is one waiter that we call our nemesis. Horrible service. Forgot my portion of the order and then accused me of being at fault. Another occasion we had the same waiter with similar attitude. However despite this I keep coming back so that says something. My favorite is the beef chimichanga. Get it almost every time. However I've ordered other things and it's always good. They hand-make their tortillas which I think gives them the extra boost over other places. I always try and get something made with flour tortillas for this reason. Oh, yeah, and their 32oz strawberry margaritas are bomb!

Laura H.
San Diego, CA

Updated - 5/12/2010

This is one of the last places left in Old Town that has that authentic feel that used to exist in Bazaar del Mundo before they were turned over to the evil Delaware North and became whatever they call it now (plaza del pasado or plaza del blah-sado or something). Because of this fact, they tend to get really busy at peak times. Good for them, but you might want to go at an off time or be prepared to wait for a large party.

I love their back patio with the huge tree and fountain on a sunny San Diego day. They also have great happy hour in the bar area (again, can get crowded). Their bartenders know what they're doing with a margarita. Classic San Diego Mexican food, mariachis n all.

Guadalajara remains my favorite classic Mexican place, especially the outdoor patio. Last night I must have been feeling particularly sentimental about SD in general and this place in particular, because I felt like raving about it. I told my bf, "I bet I can name 10 things I love about this patio right now," and then I did:

1. The big beautiful tree that is the centerpiece of the patio
2. Colorful umbrellas (they border on tacky, yet somehow end up being just perfect)
3. String lights
4. Mexican style paper streamer things
5. Rustic wrought iron light fixtures
6. Well-placed heat lamps
7. Lovely water fountain
8. Spicy salsa
9. Margaritas gigantes
10. Enchiladas Suizas

I venture to say that Guadalajara has the best enchiladas suizas in town. Extra cheesy, extra tomatillo-y, perfectly seasoned chicken with green chiles on top.

The margaritas are always just what they should be -- huge and tasty. (I recently ordered a "large" margarita at Casa de Reyes and was given a tall tumbler for \$15. Offensive. Perdoname Senor Reyes, donde esta mi birdbath margarita??)

And that is why I can confidently declare my 5-star love for Guadalajara. Besame, besame muuuuchooooo!

Tracey K.
San Diego, CA

3/7/2010

Casa Guadalajara is now the best Mexican restaurant in Old Town. My husband brought me here for our first date so we wanted to re live the first date so we went back. It was rainy last night and we thought the place would be empty but it was bouncing!!! There was a 45 minute wait but there were some cozy seats in the bar so we decided to sit there.

Lupita was our server and she was working it!!! She had about 15 tables to cover but she didn't miss a beat. She kept the chips full the salsa fresh and my Margaritas coming.

We ordered a chicken quesadilla appetizer that came with sour cream and guacamole that we only ate a few bites of because it was HUGE. Next came shrimp and chicken fajitas for hubby and a combo plate for me with carne asada, enchilada and tacos.....rice beans avocado sour cream and the list goes on. There was enough left over for both of us to have lunch today and it still tasted fresh. I just wish I would have had one of the margaritas to go with it!!!

We will go back again and again and again.

Oh, before I forget, because we were celebrating a birthday Lupita had the Mariachi band come sing Happy Birthday.

Tiffany L.
San Diego, CA

2/15/2010

Hands down the best Mexican restaurant in Old Town. The service here is excellent, the server was so attentive and always there to refill the waters immediately. The food is soooo good. I had the carne asada burrito with a side of veggies instead of beans and it was amazing. The burrito was so large that I ended up eating only half of it. The guacamole that came with it was absolutely delicious and so was the hottest salsa that they have (I asked for it). Great food, great atmosphere, and great service.

Lisa N.
El Cajon, CA

1/25/2010

Best Mexican Restaurant in San Diego! Great chips and salsa. Fresh flour tortillas made to order. Strong authentic margaritas. Cheese enchiladas, crispy chicken tacos, fajitas, and the taco salad all are my favorites. Also, the flan is to die for! Great big patio area and nice inside seating available. They also have a good sized bar area. Great for a special event or just to satisfy a mexican craving.

Kaylen K.
Spring Valley, CA

1/21/2010

Since Mexican food is one of my absolute favorites, I love trying as many different establishments as I can. If it's carne asada, margaritas and chips and salsa I want, I head to Casa Guadalajara.

They have great chips and salsa, which is very important. Their margaritas are not only good, but inexpensive and strong too! I usually order the carne asada dinner that comes with a cheese enchilada. The meat is a little too thin, but tastes amazing. The cheese enchilada is great and so is the rice and beans.

One of my favorite things about this huge restaurant is sitting outside on their gorgeous patio during a nice summer day. In the winter they bust out the heat lamps, so it's nice then too.

If you're in the mood for some great Mexican food in the heart of San Diego, try Casa Guadalajara.

Garima T.
San Diego, CA

10/9/2009

I've tried out several restaurants in Old Town and keep coming back to this one. Their salsa is amazing and so are the chips and Margaritas. I love their flour tortillas. All of their food is amazing but my all time favorite is the Arroz Con Pollo. Their food and drinks are reasonably priced and helpings are pretty large too..so be prepared to take a doggy bag home.

Chris L.
San Diego, CA

9/15/2009

Great Shrimp Fajitas! Overall, they have very good food and great soft tortilla shells. This has turned into our favorite Mexican restaurant in SD!

Seamus O.
Chula Vista, CA

8/16/2009

Best Mexican happy hour in the county

Located in historic Old Town, just minutes from downtown San Diego, Casa Guadalajara offers a good selection of Mexican food served in the traditional style. With authentic decor and colorful ceramic-tiled tables, the atmosphere is comfortable.

In a city with so many good choices for excellent Mexican food, this restaurant stands out above the rest because of the shocking happy hour value. You will not find a better deal than large margaritas for around \$3 and free food offered buffet style. Just inside the bar area is a table with chips, salsa, and two heated trays with complimentary food. Casa Guadalajara is definitely a San Diego favorite with the best happy hour around. I ate there monthly during my senior year of college and still stop in to relax for a drink when in the area.