



RESTAURANT REVIEW

Mexicali Blues

Salvadoran/Mexican/Central
American

Inexpensive

100
BEST
BARGAIN

Arlington

2933 Wilson Blvd.

Arlington, VA

703-812-9352

Open for lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday until 11, open Sunday for dinner only until 11.

One owner is Salvadoran (and the other four are American), but other than a few telltale items on the menu and the thick house-made tortillas that accompany some plates, you'd guess this vividly painted storefront eatery was authentic Mexican. Start with a round of crispy chips with a lively house-made salsa and boozy margaritas. Then dive into plates of fluffy Salvadoran-style corn tamales, fried yucca and pork, shrimp with onion, tomato, garlic and cilantro, and carne asada.

Shrimp and chorizo tacos are winners, and we love anything--flautas, enchiladas, or a burrito--stuffed with seasoned pork. Can't decide? Go for one of the combo plates, where you get a sampling of several items. We'd prefer our guacamole without jalapenos, but it's still pretty good. You could have flan for dessert.

— Cynthia Hacinli

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