

Grandma's Chic Kitchen

Regina in the Hatachana is a traditional restaurant with a twist.

By DANA ZAX

When you first get into Hatachana, the new station **compound** in Tel Aviv-Yafo, it takes your **breath** away. As you pass by the antique **wagons** and the **unique** restaurants and store signs, every walk turns into a romantic one. Our romantic walk led us right to Regina.

The beautiful restaurant is placed in a **preserved** 19th century building, designed in an **ancient** Arabic style. It has a few different spaces, a number of **cozy** rooms for small **events**, a big central space, and a very welcoming **patio**. The restaurant **hosts** small and large events, even weddings.

The restaurant's special Kabalat Shabbat event takes place every Friday afternoon on the patio. The **traditional** Jewish food, along with trendy music and cool people, make it a magical **experience**.

Regina is named after one of the **founders'** grandmother, and as the name **suggests**, as soon as you walk in, it feels like grandma's home. The **staff** is welcoming and smile a lot, and the kitchen can be seen through a window, from which the colorful **sights** and great **scents** give you a taste of what is in store for you. Even the cups and plates have an old fashioned design, like the ones you could find at your grandma's house. But, unlike the Tel Avivian restaurant trend, which **serves** each **dish** on a different styled plate, Regina's plates are unique but **matching**. That adds a sense of elegance to the homey feeling.

We started our meal with a full table of the restaurant's fantastic starters: fresh out of the oven Moroccan bread (NIS16), eggplant (חציל) served with tahini and pomegranate seeds (גרגירי רימון), which gave the dish a sweet twist (NIS34); and an Ashkenazi chopped liver (כבד קצוץ) with **delicious** fried onions on top (NIS38). We also had a salad of avocado, tomatoes, red onions and parsley (פטרזיליה), which was simply a perfect dish (NIS35). That just goes to show that all you need is some fresh **ingredients** and a **vision**.

For the main **course** we got the Moroccan fish, which is a much-loved dish almost every Moroccan grandma makes for Shabbat dinner, so you could imagine our **expectations**. Regina had a twist for that too – the sea bream (דניס) fillet was grilled before it was put in the spicy red sauce, and that made it **extraordinarily** tasty (NIS78). Another great fish dish was the organic sea bream fillet served with white rice, tomatoes and garlic. As someone who only eats fish when mom cooks them for her, I can tell you it was surprisingly delicious (NIS92).

The shwarma plate was just wonderful – a freshly-baked pita filled with tasty turkey (הודו) meat, spicy tomato salsa and home fries on the side. It was as good as the pitas you get in shwarma **stands**, but so much more chic (NIS65).

For **dessert**, we had the soft and warm German apple strudel, served with cold vanilla ice cream. It was gone from the plate in no time (NIS36).

Regina's menu offers dishes from all across the different Israeli ethnic groups. Between the different traditional dishes, anyone can find a plate that will **remind** them of home. If you are looking for a home-style family meal, a romantic dinner, a trendy night out or a trendy Kabalat Shabbat, Regina is all that and more.



(DANI YURDAN)



The writer was a guest of the restaurant.

Dictionary

Compound	קומפאונד	מתחם
Breath	ברת'	נשימה
Wagons	ווגונד	קרונות
Unique	יוניק	מיוחדים
Preserved	פריזרבד	משומר
Century	סנצ'ורי	מאה
Ancient	אינשנט	עתיק
Cozy	קוזי	חמימים
Events	איבנטס	אירועים
Patio	פטיו	חצר
Hosts	הוסטס	מארחת
Traditional	טראדישנל	מסורתי
Experience	אקספיריאנס	חוויה
Founders	פאונדרז	מייסדים
Suggests	סג'סטס	רמז
Staff	סטף	צוות
Sights	סיטס	מראות
Scents	סנטס	ריחות
Serves	סרבז	מגישות
Dish	דיש	מנה
Matching	מצ'ינג	מתאימות
Delicious	דלישס	טעימים מאד
Ingredients	אינגרידיאנטס	רכיבים
Vision	ויז'ן	חזון
Course	קורס	מנה
Expectations	אקספקטישנס	ציפיות
Extraordinarily	אקסראורדינרילי	במיוחד
Stands	סטנדז	דוכנים
Dessert	דירט	קינוח
Remind	רימינד	תזכיר