

SPLICE AIMS TO BRING NEW FLAVOURS TO DOWNTOWN MILTON

SPLICE GRILL
243 MAIN ST. E.,
MILTON
905-864-3335
OPEN DAILY, 4 P.M.
TO 10 P.M.

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While James Gomes was dreaming of moving to Milton and opening a restaurant, he started visiting other spots downtown to get a sense for the niche he could fill. His conclusion: Anything but Italian.

"Here, most of the restaurants are so Italian," said Gomes, who opened casual fine dining restaurant Splice Grill in 2016. "I thought people who dine out might want to go somewhere else for a change ... I decided Splice could be different."

The result is an amalgamation - or splice, if you will - of cuisine from across Europe and North America. The menu features dishes such as crab cakes, lamb shanks, poutine and fish tacos, and also includes a nod to the local vibe with Italian classics such as pizza and pasta. One of Gomes' favourite dishes is the chicken supreme, stuffed with spinach, red pepper and goat cheese.

"Our chicken schnitzel is very famous," he added. "People love our schnitzel. One guy said, 'if you take it off the menu, we won't be coming back.'"

Gomes designs the menu, which is executed by chefs Rajan Gomes (no relation) and Francis Rozario. Before Splice, Gomes was a partner in Brownes Bistro in Toronto's upscale Rosedale neighbourhood, a French-inspired restaurant that has been open since 1983. After a couple visits to Milton, he saw parallels between the town and Rosedale, including the community atmosphere, numerous good restaurants and reasonable business hours. Dinner customers in Milton are usually done by 10 p.m., he said, noting those hours are much better



Nikki Wesley/Metroland

Splice is located at 243 Main St. East in Milton. Right, The chicken schnitzel is the most popular dish at Splice.

than most in hospitality - good for a family man such as himself.

"We can work and enjoy the weekend too," said Gomes, who is married with children aged seven and 12.

"We're not open here for lunches so I can take my kids to school and take some time off in the morning."

In its location in the historic building at 243 Main St. E., Splice can accommodate 80 people and has a private room appropriate for

special events. The former post office was built in 1914 for \$21,000, according to the town's website. More recently, it was a nightclub and a series of other restaurants before becoming Splice.

Gomes says he has customers who remember coming to the post office, and who have been visiting the building in its different incarnations ever since.

"I had a group here. The people said they used to work in the post



office sorting the mail at night," he said. "They were taking pictures and everything ... They had so many memories of being here."

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