

Dish of raita helps with spices

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The Indian Kitchen provides a reference beside each menu offering.

Another misconception is the yellow powder Canadians refer to as 'curry powder' is what you will find in an Indian restaurant.

The term 'curry' in Indian cooking is actually a generic reference to many different spice blends that are as distinct in taste and fragrance as garlic powder is from cinnamon.

The menu at The Indian Kitchen is divided into 10 sections, from appetizers to accompaniments.

For a complete Indian meal experience, be sure to include a choice from the roti (Indian bread) section, the basmati (rice) section and the humsatar (accompaniment) section.

For starters, we tried the samosas two per order, which were much larger than the usual two-bite samosas we've had elsewhere. Freshly prepared and stuffed with pleasantly spiced potatoes and peas, they are ideal for sharing at only \$3.95.

With so many exciting dishes to try, we couldn't linger on the appetizers long, so we moved to the entrees and accompaniments.

The murg (tandoori, or tandoori barbecue chicken) (\$9.95), is served on a sizzling platter and includes four large, juicy pieces of bone-in chicken and an assortment of fresh vegetables.

The chicken was coated in traditional tandoori spices and had a heat level slightly higher than other tandoori chicken dishes I've sampled, but was flavourful and delicious.

The gosht rogan josh, a traditional

Kashmiri curry dish, featured large pieces of boneless, lean lamb in a thick masala sauce delicately enhanced with saffron.

If you are brave, you could try a lamb vindaloo, which, according to the menu is 'only for the very brave'. I've had vindaloo before, but if they're going to take the trouble to warn you.

There is also a nice selection of seafood, ranging in price from \$11.95 to \$14.95, including poached fish fillets and shrimp dishes.

VEGETARIAN DELIGHT

Vegetarians will delight in the selection at The Indian Kitchen. There are 12 different meatless entrees, such as banyan patiala (\$7.50), a tasty, slightly sweet 'stew' in which tender slices of eggplant are sauteed with cashews, raisins and onion seeds.

More traditional offerings include dal makhani (\$6.95), made from lentils and beans, and aloo ghoji-lajawab (\$7.50), a mild mixture of cauliflower and potato prepared with yogurt and poppy seeds.

Although there is a nice selection of mild, medium and hot dishes at The Indian Kitchen, it never hurts to have a dish of cooling yogurt and cucumber mixed raita (\$1.95) on the side.

We invite you to share your favourite restaurants and tell other readers what it is about these establishments that keeps you going back for more. Send your suggestions, tips and restaurant picks to York Region Newspaper Group editor Tracy Kibble at tkibble@yrmg.com, attention Diversion. We'll publish as many as we can in the Diversion section, which runs the third weekend of each month.

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Frustration part of experience

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cycle, things seem to heat up a little more in terms of the number of bidders and dollar value.

For buyers, eBay can take the leg work out of collecting. Gary Fry has been working at his Dinky Toy collection since 1979, touring sales, joining the Canadian Toy Collectors Society and corresponding with collectors and dealers.

"It was a laborious process that took 20 years to show tangible results with many disappointments and deceptions encountered during the hunt," he says.

In 1998, Mr. Fry, 57, registered with eBay and started making monthly purchases from home.

His surfing savvy ended his search for a rare Canadian die-cast toy line called Real Types.

"Using eBay's search and bid mechanism, I have acquired Real Types from as far away as Maine, California, New Jersey and British Columbia," the Thornhill resident says.

For those who think e-buying is just too easy, think again, Ms MacBride says.

"A person has to be careful, because you may think you have an auction all sewn up, five minutes to go and you are the top bidder."

"Sometimes, someone swoops in and scoops the item before you can place a counter bid or raise the high bid price you are willing to pay."

"It's very frustrating, but it's all part of the auction experience."

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