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### **Cocina Chente**

Cocina Chente is a Mexican cuisine located on 3535 Riverdale Ave, Bronx, NY 10463. It is a local restaurant that is ten minutes from my home. Cocina Chente is not only known for their delicious food, but for their handcrafted cocktails, live music, and outdoor seating. I decided to go to the restaurant in the night time around nine p.m. As soon as I am walking towards the restaurant you can spot it right away. It had beautiful lights hanging outside the windows. When I walked in it was very dark, although there were small lights everywhere and candles on every table, there were also LED lights on the bar that turned different colors making the place look very cozy and warm. The LED lights were green, white and red which is very meaningful because it is Mexico's flag colors. Originally, the colors of the Mexican flag held different meanings than today. The green stripe was said to represent Mexico's independence from Spain. The color red indicated the union between the Americas and Europe, as the elite class still identified with its European roots. The white color was established to symbolize the purity of the Catholic religion (Pariona, 2016). It smelled wonderful, since it was a Mexican restaurant it smelled like fried chips and spicy food which reminded me of my home that I used to live in when I was little in Mexico. I also got strange smells of wet wood, just because the walls were made out of bricks and the tables were made out of dark wood. Precisely that day it was pouring

rain, I wondered if that was the reason why I smelled wet wood, or if they were trying to give a home feel smell. What I also noticed was that the music was overly loud for such a calm looking place. The band who was playing live was very loud making it hard to mingle with anyone. I unfortunately barely could hear the waitress, I felt like I had to scream over what I wanted to eat. Besides the fact of the music being overly loud, the choices of music they were singing were great. They were all Spanish classics and that related effectively with the aesthetic of the restaurant.

In Addition, when I took a look at the menu they had a large variety of options which made it exciting for me. I am Mexican myself, so it was pretty exciting to be choosing out of a menu that I knew what most of the foods were. They had very interesting names for the food and cocktails too. One of the cocktails name was called "El Chapo" making it interesting because El Chapo," is head of the Sinaloa cartel, the world's most powerful drug-trafficking organization (Aldrich, 2019). Their menu was really amazing within the appetizers, main course and desserts. They had a lot of variety of foods to choose from which was perfect for anyone who is open to trying new things, they would always have an option to choose from. The location of the restaurant is my favorite part. I love for the restaurant is very isolated just because it targets local customers and you can tell that many people in there new each other and that made it feel very home like.

Overall, the food in the restaurant was delicious. I had the guacamole and chips and you can taste how fresh the guac was and the chips were freshly made by hand. I had skirt steak that got partnered with rice and beans. Although it sounds like homemade food, it was displayed in my plate so beautifully. The best part about this place was how affordable it was for anyone who

was willing to come relax and enjoy good live music and mexican homemade food. I would definitely recommend it and I would definitely go back.

References

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