



OPA! THE BEST 'FUN' RESTAURANT IN TOWN! - ORLANDO STYLE MAGAZINE -

Taverna Opa Here's To Life!

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> 'Dimmed lighting, the rising sound and beat of music, a belly dancer making her entrance into the dining room casually sashaying with a display of torches aflame'; it's now 7:00 p.m. and the entertainment is just beginning at 'Taverna Opa'. This authentic Greek restaurant offers nothing short of an exquisite night on the town filled with delicious food, remarkable entertainment and nonstop fun.

Located on Orlando's famous strip, International Drive, this spot will intrigue you from the moment you walk in the door. From the detailed old world décor to the upbeat mix of Greek and contemporary music, the spirited atmosphere will make you feel like celebrating, with great food and a long list

of Greek wines. Although its emphasis is on having fun, 'Taverna Opa' selections are prepared from traditional Greek recipes; every single dish is authentic, of the highest quality and served in plentiful portions.

We began our evening with a traditional appetizer, Saganaki, a Greek cheese, uniquely displayed tableside with a server's shout of "Opa" followed by an exciting pyrotechnic flaming presentation accompanied by the aromatic pleasures of heated Metaxa brandy being wafted about. Soon thereafter, we were devouring entrée platters of Chicken and Beef Tenderloin Kabobs marinated with garlic and fresh herbs, along with similarly seasoned Lamb Chops.

As we dined, the atmosphere became slightly subdued and the lighting slowly dimmed. A dancer sways through the crowd clapping to the music, encouraging the audience to follow along. From her costume to her dances, she portrays Greek tradition as she mounts a sturdy "ready to dance-on" table, gathers the attention of the guests and randomly selects a few to follow her lead. The smiles become laughter and grow louder as the energetic staff tosses hundreds if not thousands of napkins through the air with shrieks of "Opa" being sounded.

Following dinner, we were served the signature dessert, Opa Ekmek, a delicious concoction of Kantafla shredded phyllo dough, walnuts, custard cream and whipped top-

ping as well as the universally known Baklava. Simultaneous with the sinful 'inhalation' of these 'goodies', the energy of the room begins to pulsate as the music blares, servers pull willing guests out of their chairs forming an enormous circle and everyone participates in the traditional Greek dance known as "Zorba". The room energy continues to rise as napkins are thrown aloft and everyone shouting "Opa"!

This true, culturally authentic restaurant will leave you with a unique and memorable experience. G.M. Vassilis Coumbaros reminded us "Opa is not only about business. It is about outstanding Greek food and ethnic entertainment that is fun for all ages, families and friends"!<

"Opa", meaning to celebrate life—and celebrate we did!"

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