



WHAT'S NEW

Family Spirit

Baba's in South Baltimore reflects Mediterranean roots.

BY CARRIE OLEJNIK

After 24 years in the computer industry, Farid Salloum is now continuing a family tradition at **Baba's Mediterranean Kitchen** (745 E. Fort Ave., 410-727-7482). He's following in the footsteps of his father, who left the Middle East in 1956 and eventually opened an ice-cream shop in Syracuse, NY. But

Salloum is going a step farther and offering Greek, Arabic, Italian, and Moroccan fare. You'll find him and various relatives behind the counter preparing authentic dishes for affordable prices. The South Baltimore restaurant is attractive with hand-painted tiles, brick walls, and gleaming wood floors. It does lots of carryout orders, but there are tables, too. (It's BYOB.) The Med-ley (\$6) got us off to a good start with two rounds of falafel, two squares of spanakopita, stuffed grape leaves, olives, and generous wedges of pita bread to dip in the warm hummus. The grilled, marinated chicken kabob was nicely tender and drizzled with a punchy tahini sauce over a bed of rice. The platter (\$9) generously comes with hummus and a salad dressed with oil and vinegar. Be sure and leave on a sweet note with the soft, nutty baklava (\$3).

DRINKS

APRÈS POE

Cocktails celebrate the writer's 200th birthday.

BY MIKE UNGER

It seems a tad naive to imagine that noted drinker Edgar Allan Poe would mark this year, the bicentennial of his birth, with cake alone. If Baltimore's famous writer were around to celebrate 200, he'd be wise to stop into Canton's **Annabel Lee Tavern** (601 S. Clinton St., 410-522-2929) to try one of eight cocktails on a new drink menu inspired—like the rest of the place—by him. Proprietor Kurt X. Bragunier used Poe's final poem, about the death of a beautiful woman, to name the small bar and restaurant he opened in 2007. From the start, people were drawn to its inventive food, and the drink menu follows suit. Heading the list is a concoction named for Annabel Lee herself—a blend of Stoli vodka, peach nectar, fresh lime, and Segura Cava that is refreshing without being too sweet. The Spanish sparkling wine is a



nice touch, providing texture that stirs memories of mimosas. There's also the Masque of the Red Death, a combination of Pama pomegranate liqueur, Stoli Blackberi, peach schnapps, and cranberry juice. So, happy birthday, Edgar. We'll drink one for you.

LISTINGS KEY

Our Policy

The Dining Guide is a reader service compiled by Baltimore's editorial staff. The magazine does not accept advertising or other compensation in exchange for the listings. Critics visit restaurants anonymously and all expenses are paid by the magazine. Listings are updated regularly. To correct a listing or request a restaurant be considered for the list, contact Suzanne Loudermilk at suzanne@baltimoremagazine.net or 410-752-4201 x5219. A ★ indicates that a restaurant has won an award (Best Restaurants, Best of Baltimore, Cheap Eats, etc.) in the past year.

The Key

- B Breakfast
- L Lunch
- D Dinner
- † Kids' menu
- ♻ Accessible
- ▲ Fireplaces
- ★ Outdoor Dining
- ☞ Free parking
- ☒ Reservations
- ☞ Carry out
- ★ Award winner

Pricing

- \$ Entrées cost up to \$15.95
- \$\$ Entrées cost between \$16 and \$19.95
- \$\$\$ Entrées cost between \$20 and \$24.95
- \$\$\$\$ Entrées cost over \$25

Baltimore City Above North Avenue

- ALONSO'S RESTAURANT AND PACKAGED GOODS** 415 W. Cold Spring Ln., 410-235-3433. Reborn local bar famed for huge burgers now serves Italian, too. **L,D** daily, brunch Sat-Sun. ☞ \$\$\$ ☞ ☞ ☞
- AMBASSADOR DINING ROOM** 3811 Canterbury Rd., 410-366-1484. Royal Indian cuisine in a Tudor setting. **L,D** daily. \$\$ ★ ▲ ☞ ☞ ☞
- ANGELINA'S** 7135 Harford Rd., 410-444-5545. Italian restaurant with crab cakes and an Irish pub. Under new management. **L,D** Tue-Sun. † ☞ \$\$\$ ☞ ☞ ☞
- BRASSERIE TATIN** 105 W. 39th St, 443-278-9110. Contemporary French brasserie serving classics and a few surprises. **L** Tue-Fri, **D** daily. \$\$\$ ☞ ☞ ★
- BOMBAY GARDEN** 5511 York Rd., 410-323-8440. Tandoori, curry specialties. **L,D** Tue-Sun. \$\$ ☞ ☞ ☞
- CAFE HON** 1002 W. 36th St., 410-243-1230. Homey food, hon: meatloaf, burgers, roast beef with mashed potatoes, crab cakes. **B,L** Mon-Fri, **D** daily, brunch Sat-Sun. † ☞ \$ ☞ ☞ ☞ ★
- CAFE ZEN** 438 E. Belvedere Ave., 410-532-0022. Cheery venue for simple, homestyle Chinese. Near The Senator Theatre. **L,D** daily. ☞ \$\$\$ ☞ ☞ ☞
- CARLYLE CLUB** 500 W. University Pkwy., 410-243-5454. Terrific Southern Indian food. **D** Tue-Sun. \$\$\$ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ★
- CHAMELEON CAFE** 4341 Harford Rd., 410-254-2376. Charming French-inflected restaurant is a Lauraville favorite. Tue-Sat. \$\$\$ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ★
- CLEMENTINE** 5402 Harford Rd., 410-444-1497. Innovative food with Euro influences in casual setting. **B,L,D** Wed-Sun. † ☞ \$ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞
- CREPE DU JOUR** 1609 Sulgrave Ave., 410-542-9000. French cuisine in a warm atmosphere. Brunch Sat-Sun; **L,D** Tue-Sun. \$\$\$ ★
- CROSSROADS AT THE CROSS KEYS INN** 5100 Falls Rd., 410-532-6900. Hotel dining room with contemporary menu. **B,L,D** daily. † ☞ \$\$\$ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞
- CRUSH** 510 E. Belvedere Ave., 443-278-9001. Lively bar area and white tablecloth dining on other levels. **L,D** daily. \$\$\$ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞
- DESERT CAFE** 1605 Sulgrave Ave, 410-367-5808. Middle Eastern light fare in comfy cafe. Belly dancers on weekends. **L,D** Tue-Sat. \$ ★ ▲ ☞ ☞
- THE DOGWOOD RESTAURANT** 911 W. 36th St., 410-889-