



Let's Do Brunch: Toloache's Got Mex Appeal, June 29, 2008

Rocker Alex Skora and his bassist, Arthur Sadowsky, needed to sit down to discuss an upcoming performance that their band, A.L.X., was planning at the Cutting Room. Since they both love Mexican food, we suggested they try the brunch at Toloache, located in the Theater District. Alex reported back.

How was the vibe? It's nice to go into a festive ethnic atmosphere in the summer and sip icy drinks—kind of like taking a little vacation from New York. Toloache felt like a cozy, little piece of Mexico, with a lot of tile, adobe and colorful Mexican plates on the walls, and people drinking frozen margaritas.

Did you try the ceviche bar? Yes, we decided to take the waiter's recommendation and try the Acapulco-style *Vuelve a la Vida*, a well-balanced mix of shrimp, octopus and other seafood in a mildly sweet tomato sauce. It had a nice hit of acid, which was refreshing in the summer heat. The homemade tortilla chips, which had to be ordered à la carte, were crisp and not too oily. And they were served with an excellent tomato/tomatillo salsa that wasn't overly spicy.

What about the brunch? There are Mexican takes on classics like French toast with roasted banana and dulce de leche. I chose the *Huevos Toloache*, one of the more innovative Mexican egg dishes I've had recently. It was an interpretation of eggs Florentine served on thick Mexican corn bread with a layer of spinach and a creamy pepper sauce instead of Hollandaise. Arthur wanted something more filling than eggs, so he ordered the *Enchiladas de Pollo*, which came stuffed with a generous amount of shredded white and dark stewed chicken, Mexican cheeses and a superb roasted tomato sauce, which created a great contrast of textures. It was served with a chopped green apple salad. Both dishes were intensely flavorful and cooked to perfection.

And the drinks? While the temptation to sample Toloache's extensive tequila menu or good list of South American and Spanish wines was strong, we decided to keep things on the lighter side, because it was such a hot day. I had iced tea, and Arthur ordered coffee, which was nice and strong.