



ANCIENT CITY APPETITE

BY JOSHUA BAER

TAQUERIA ADELITAS

3565 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe.

10 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days.

Taqueria Adelitas is a ten-minute drive from downtown Santa Fe, on the north side of Cerrillos Road, halfway between Richards Avenue and Vegas Verdes. It is not to be confused with Adelitas Restaurant, at 3136 Cerrillos Road, on the south side of Cerrillos.

Taqueria Adelitas serves beer, including Negra Modelo, and accepts credit cards.

505 428-6390.

You can order blindfolded at Taqueria Adelitas. Their food is that good. But there are two items you don't want to miss: The Tacos de Lengua (\$1.25, a taco), and the Pollo Asado (\$7.95 for a half of a chicken, \$14.95 for an entero, or whole chicken). Adelitas' Tacos de Lengua, or beef tongue tacos, are tied with the tacos de lengua at the nameless roach coach located at the corner of Sixth and Hopewell for the best tacos in Santa Fe. Before you eat them, load them with guacamole, salsa arbol, and tomatilla salsa from the salsa table.

Most days, I order four. If I'm starved, I order five, with a salad and a side of rice and beans.

The Pollo Asado, or roast chicken, is the best in Santa Fe. While Adelitas' Tacos de Lengua are best consumed on site, the moment they come off the grill, their Pollo Asado makes a great take-out dinner for two or three people. A salad comes with the chicken. If you're hungry, order a side of rice and beans or a bowl of menudo.

The bottom line: \$10 per person, tops, plus a tip. You can eat at Taqueria Adelitas for less, but the food is so good and the prices are so reasonable, why not dive in and explore the menu? On Fridays, the shrimp tacos are delicious.

This is not the kind of place where someone greets you at the door and asks

you if you would like to see a menu. The menu is above your head, as you walk in. Seating is at simple wooden booths. Mariachi music is playing. There is almost always a soccer match on the big screen television mounted above the booths on the south wall of the room.

Santa Fe is as New Mexican as New Mexico gets, but there are parts of Santa Fe that are more Old Mexican than New Mexican. It's hard to know where New becomes Old, or vice versa. It's more a matter of pockets than boundaries. Airport Road southwest of Cerrillos is an extended Old Mexican pocket. Taqueria Adelitas, owned and operated by a family from Chihuahua, is thoroughly Old Mexican, but in a contemporary, post-cliché, anti-obsequious way. Maybe the best thing about Adelitas is that there are children in the restaurant, eating and laughing and making their parents smile. If you live here and need a place where you can eat and / or take out once or twice a week, Taqueria Adelitas will make you happy.

Ancient City Appetite recommends good places to eat, in and out of Santa Fe. Contents and photograph are ©2014 by ancientcityappetite.com. Photograph ©2014 by THE magazine. Send the name of your favorite places to us at places@ancientcityappetite.com.