

Posted by [www.Dinewithus.co.uk](http://www.Dinewithus.co.uk) – August 2008

## *“Mucho Gastro – Ironbridge Mexican”*



Dos Amigos, Fajitas, nachos, guacamole, and refried beans on a wet August Saturday – It must be a night at **Las Meriandas - Ironbridge's very own Mexican restaurant**, hidden in the Tontine Hotel and bar – right opposite the famous bridge.

I must admit, in my role as gourmet traveller, and regular sampler across our delightful region, I have heard many a good tail about this gem, but never tried it, so this feature was a great excuse to give it a go.

**Authentic decor in this cosy restaurant overlooking the flood lit Ironbridge**, lends a taster to things to come. We selected a bottle of their L.A.Cetto Mexican Sirah wine at £15 – when in Rome – and from the menu chose to share the 'Taste of Mexico Combo – Spicy chicken wings, potato wedges, deep fried onion rings, nachos with cheese, salsa and salad – On arrival it did not disappoint – on the contrary – a stunning display of colourful ingredients on a large oval dish – topped with thick rich guacamole, homemade sweet salsa and sour cream topped with fresh chives. Clearly enough for 4, but we managed to not invite any of the other guests over, and tickled the plate off nicely.

**The mains were soon to follow**, again with ample portions, accompanied with a friendly smile from the delightful Estelle who though French, was very Mexican in her appearance, and knowledge. My King Prawn Vera Cruz – cooked in a spicy sweet chilli sauce with fresh peppers, pineapple and coriander rice, £12.95 was perfectly presented, and equally as tasty – the prawns large, beautifully moist and tender. My guests Beef Enchilada was fried and grilled perfectly, light, and brimming with beef, served with a large salad, guacamole, sour cream and rice £10.95. If you can manage a pud, the choice is ample – next time I will dive into the Banana Tortilla with hot chilli chocolate and caramel sauce. Tempting.

**The décor is perfectly in keeping with the restaurant theme**, and the ambience, low lighting, with candles on every table, with rich coloured walls, eclectic artwork, and chairs that could have been ridden from the Mexican plains themselves – innovatively created from old cart wheels, which all add to the occasion.

**Depth of flavour, accompanied with great atmosphere, relaxing ambience, and a feeling of warmth** in this cold Summer we are enduring, means I cannot recommend this venue enough – In these lean times, it is reassuring to be able to be adventurous without breaking the bank. You can even sit in the public bar afterwards, enjoying a drink with the locals– but a word of advice – if they like you enough, don't try their kind offer of their 'house' chilli sauce on a teaspoon – it can have repercussions!  
Total Meal £48.85 Incl wine.

**Food Style:** Authentic Mexican

**Most Popular Dish:** Enchiladas – Your chosen filling, wrapped in a Tortilla, fried, then baked topped with melted cheese, and enchilanda sauce

**Offers:** Coming in September

**Tel:** 01952 432 127

**Web:** [www.dinewithus.co.uk/tontine-hotel](http://www.dinewithus.co.uk/tontine-hotel)

**Address:** The Square, Ironbridge, - Right opposite the Bridge!

**Opening times.** Thursday-Saturday 6-9.30pm (bar open all day)

**Proprietors:** Nic & Chef Chris. Manager Mark

**Posted by [www.Dinewithus.co.uk](http://www.Dinewithus.co.uk) – August 2008**

Review by [www.Dinewithus.co.uk](http://www.Dinewithus.co.uk) – August 2008 Please mention us on booking