



NORTH SHORE DINING

Singleton's Salsa Shack

Tobay Beach • 1 Ocean Pkwy., Massapequa
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Every summer, I try to dine in as many outdoor restaurants as possible. Unfortunately, many of them simply put tables and chairs in front of their eatery and the view of a parking lot or traffic whizzing by is as good as it gets. Recently, friends suggested heading about 20 minutes south to Tobay Beach (about two miles East of the famed Jones Beach tower) to try a really great "find". That place is Singleton's Salsa Shack.

The Salsa Shack has a feel of summer and the great outdoors, with a wonderful view of the water and a breathtaking sunset. If you're in a hurry, pass on the Salsa Shack. The waits are long (and they don't accept reservations), but if you have the time and patience — wait. As you do, you'll wait on chairs at the bar or on soft couches, enjoying your company, along with cool drinks (I recommend the sangria), chips and guacamole. We recently went on a Saturday night at 7:00 pm with two other couples and were told the wait would be two hours. We said yes and sat down with drinks and plenty of conversation. Just under one hour later, our names were happily called.



We were seated in an outdoor patio area, where our friendly, chatty waiter was quick to bring us menus and take drink requests. As the name Salsa Shack suggests, the fare is heavily Mexican. We started with Nachos and Guacamole for the table (very predictable, but who cares — we had the view)! Appetizers included Quesados (soft tortillas with melted cheese and guacamole), Mussels, Shrimp with Cilantro and Chili. Salads are available for the lighter eater. My wife opted for the Mexican Salad with the Grilled Chicken and enjoyed the rather large portion. There is also a Grilled Skirt Steak Salad or a Grilled Shrimp Salad, served in a crisp tortilla.

My friends ordered Quesadillas and Enchiladas. There were no surprises in either direction, but both were very tasty. I ordered the Mariscos en Salsa Verde (a lobster tail with mussels, clams and shrimp, simmered in a green sauce). I wanted something a little different, and it truly was, in a mouth-watering way. Other entrée choices included a Boneless Chicken in White Wine Garlic Butter, Grilled Mahi-Mahi and Grilled Salsa Shack Steak. Our friends ordered a Fajitas Combo, which included chicken, steak and shrimp. The Salsa Shack Kids' Menu certainly makes this a kid's-friendly place to go, too.

Unfortunately, the cappuccino machine was out of service, but that didn't stop us from ordering dessert. There were only three desserts from which to choose: Ice Cream with Mango, Deep Fried Ice Cream and Apple Chimichanga. They all sounded wonderful, so we ordered all three of them. It made for a beautiful ending to a beautiful evening. Although Tobay Beach requires proof-of-residence before 4:00 pm, non-residents need only to say they are dining in the Salsa Shack to be given a two-hour parking permit.

Singleton's Salsa Shack is a great summer find, with tasty Mexican food, the smell of the beach, ocean breezes and not a traffic light for miles. Just don't forget to bring your bug spray if you are dining in the evening — there is always a tradeoff while dining al fresco. Open 11:00 am – 9:30 pm, 7 days a week in the summer, until October.

-Randy Gordon