

As you wish

An Event Planning Company

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Venus Restaurant

820 West Jackson Boulevard
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We have a confession to make ... Venus is one of our favorite restaurants in downtown Chicago and we have been patrons ever since it opened in Fall 2004. Venus is based on the unique cuisine of Cyprus with Middle Eastern, French and Italian influences. We go back time and time again for the cozy ambiance, amazing food and great service (shout out to our favorite waiter, Niko!). The owner is always on hand to greet patrons and stop by your table to make sure everyone is having a great time.

We started out with Avgolemono, a beautifully light egg lemon soup with chicken and rice. If you have the flu, forgo your mothers' chicken soup and get someone to bring you a bowl of Venus' Avgolemono. You will be better in no time! One of our companions commented that the soup "is so good, it should be illegal".

We followed up the soup with a variety of cold appetizers including hummus (a staple but alone worth making the trip to Venus), Talatouri (a Cypriot version of Tzatziki - with yogurt, dill, garlic, mint and lemon), Taramosalata (a smooth salty fish roe spread) and Tirokafteri (a one-two-three punch with feta cheese, roasted red peppers and spicy kick at the end).

We really had to hold ourselves back because we could have made a meal of the soup and spreads alone but this was only the first part of our mezes meal! Mezes is the Mediterranean version of tapas and it is served family style. All mezes selections - whether meat or fish - can be ordered individually off the menu. Up next, succulent Koupepia - grape leaves stuffed with ground pork that burst forth from the first bite and Keftedes - a traditional Cypriot pork meatball with just the right blend of spices. Crisp on the outside, juicy and moist on the inside. The Kipriaki salad was a nice light salad with greens, cilantro, capers, green onion, cucumbers, and tomatoes with a fantastic lemon and olive oil dressing.

By now, we were loosening our belts. Only two more courses to go! Kota Souvlaki (chicken kebobs) were paired with Afelia (pork marinated in red wine and dry coriander with just the right amount of fat to keep it moist). Just in case you weren't full enough, there was a Rice-A-Roni-like side dish called Pourgouri.

The meal concludes with strong coffee and Daktyla - a Cypriot version of Baklava with crushed almonds wrapped in flaky pastry, pan fried, drizzled with rose water and dusted with cinnamon. The perfect end!

There are many traditional Greek offerings on the menu including Saganaki (opa!), Tzatziki and Baklava but we opt for Venus' Cypriot specials every time. We highly recommend Venus for the more adventurous eater but the menu also provides non-daring eaters with all kinds of alternates including a great selection of steaks, chops, pastas and fish - and numerous vegetarian options as well.



During the month of October 2007, mention AS YOU WISH with your reservation or bring this flyer and each guest will receive a complimentary homemade dessert with purchase of an entree.



Venus is the perfect place to host an event on-site or have them cater your next event at your office.

Welcome to a world where dining is... AS YOU WISH!

Claudia & Jane

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from the small details... to the big picture

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Hours

Dining: 4:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday
4:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. Friday
4:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Saturday
12:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Sunday

Contact

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