

Downtown Melbourne's Fiesta Bar & Grill serves fresh food with an eco-friendly attitude

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Fiesta Bar & Grill, which opened in February in downtown Melbourne, serves scratch-made Mexican and Caribbean dishes, said owner Romeo Mikhail.

Drinks are made with fresh-squeezed juices.

The décor is fun and funny and functional, with jellyfish light fixtures, a water wall behind the bar and under-the-sea murals on all the walls.

But this is more than a place to satisfy hunger and thirst, Mikhail said. It's a place that celebrates sustainability and honors nature.



Disposable items like cups, straws and to-go containers are made from plant-based materials. Furniture on the patio out back is made from recycled plastic. Guests can purchase cocktails, with or without alcohol, in take-home glasses or cups topped with whimsical characters and get discounts on refills.

Mikhail also plans to donate a percentage of his profits to the Sea Turtle Preservation Society.

"The idea is to educate youth about how to keep the body clean and the oceans clean," he said, "to be aware of the imprint you leave."

The menu features a Guac Cart (\$12), with guacamole made tableside; Argentinian Coconut Shrimp (\$10.50); Shrimp Plantain Bacon Cakes (\$10.50); Caribbean Shrimp Pasta (\$14.50); and a variety of tacos, ranging

from Guava Jalapeno Chicken (\$4) to Lobster Roll (\$10). Tacos are available on corn or flour tortillas or lettuce wraps.



Though Fiesta has a full bar, Mikhail, who runs the restaurant with the help of sisters Madona Mikhail Brown and Moneka Mikhail, said it's a family-friendly place. Stingrays, sea turtles, hammerhead sharks and swordfish swim along the walls, thanks to murals created by Hallie Peterson ([@theporchindialantic](#)) and Lance Behringer ([@drawnbylance](#)).

Young diners can look for Patrick from "Sponge Bob Square Pants" while enjoying mac & cheese or a taco kit and sipping a Shirley Temple or Roy Rogers from souvenir cup topped with a dolphin.

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This isn't Mikhail's first restaurant. He also owns Bizzaro Pizza Bayside Lakes in Palm Bay, and soon will be launching a Bizzaro Pizza Cocoa Beach. His first

restaurant was Bizzaro in Cocoa. He also opened Wall Street Pub in West Melbourne in 2014.

Downtown Melbourne didn't need another pizza place, he said, and everyone loves tacos, so Fiesta Bar & Grill seemed like a good fit.

Once lunch and dinner business has been established, Mikhail said breakfast will follow, with mimosas, bloody Marys and French toast.

Fiesta Bar & Grill is at 837 E. New Haven Ave., Melbourne. Call 321-345-5865 or visit [facebook.com/fiestabargrillmlb](https://www.facebook.com/fiestabargrillmlb). Hours are 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday-Tuesday; 11 a.m.-midnight Wednesday; and 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Thursday-Saturday.

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