

Crazy for Graze



Since I've been working at a shared workspace on E. 6th, I drive by new businesses all the time and make a mental to-go list. On the current list is The Good Knight's replacement (I'm still in denial), Sputnik, and Papi Tinos neighboring Rio Rita, but not offering happy hour, so I'll have to plan ahead for a later evening visit or for brunch.

Last week, I caught up with a great friend (wayy overdue), at my new favorite Hacienda-like spot, Graze! Besides the fact that it has parking!, it's full of charm and come-back-soon-calling features! I love the white stucco-ish exterior, tiled floors, and clean, minimalistic interior design. The outdoor patio hugging the side of the main dining room is classy and down-to-earth. This cafe is spot on with their half-price small plates (I LOVE small plates!) and wine at happy hour (4-6:30), in addition to their carefully planned cocktail list. In fact, I found their presentation to be creative and precise, it's no wonder this is the latest concept from a team of successful local caterers who have operated out of the commercial kitchen on the premises, according to owner Andrea Barr.

The ambiance reminds me of South Congress gem Hotel San Jose, but the menu is more extensive and there's something edgy about being located on the up-and-coming East Side. What I love about the spot is that it feels like you could catch up with a friend, go on a date, or meet up with a group of friends, munch and sip and just enjoy great company and tasty treats for hours forgetting all about ticking time!

Take a look at the spread sampler we shared (the Lemon Herb Hummus was refreshing and creamy!) and the crab salad, perfectly plated! They have an entree menu that looks delicious too - I am looking forward to grazing on their small plates, entrees, and desserts soon, who's comin' with me?