

ISHQ INDIAN RESTAURANT OPENS ON OCEAN DRIVE, SOUTH BEACH

The charming 145-seat indoor/ and mostly outdoor Ishq (translated as love) is the concept of co-owners Sham and Kavita Kamlani with consultant of cookbook author and former owner of the famous Bombay Café in L.A., Neela Paniz. The menu is a journey through India's gastronomy, with influences from countries which have had a cultural and political role in India: France, England, Portugal and Persia.



Kavita is in charge of the open kitchen – designed by John Marenic of Marenic Food Service Consulting, Inc – and of the kitchen team. Together, they combine Indian cooking techniques, ingredients and spices to produce the traditional Samosas (\$8.95); Chicken Tikka Masala (\$15.95); Palak Paneer (\$8.95), Lahore Tiger prawns, and all manners of exotic curry and vegetarian dishes, tapas style dishes and less traditional fare like Bombay baby back ribs (\$23.95) and Grilled Porto-

bello Naanini sandwich (\$9.95). Cocktails are worth exploring at the mother-of-pearl inlaid bar, while the open kitchen shows a tandoori cook busy at two tandoors - open ovens that cook meats, chicken, lamb, fish and seafood and bread at temperatures as high as 650 to 800 degrees. Naan a soft flatbread and chapatti, a crisp lentil bread, are served at every table and diners are greeted with bowls of crisp threads of deliciously spiced fried okra. Desserts are a take on Indian sweets with touches of European fine patisserie such as the mango custard studded with dices of fresh mango; kheer, a rice pudding laced with Grand Marnier liquor and flavored with orange zest, and Gulab Guam, the traditional Indian fried doughnut hole in a slight syrup flavored with cardamom.

Architect Charles Benson & Associates and interior design team McBride Co have designed an arresting dining area with carved marble slabs from India, semi-precious stone inlays of lapis, malachite and power shell at the bar, warm colors and a 14 person community sharing table sits center stage in the dining room.

Ishq, is open daily for continental breakfast, lunch, tapas, cocktails, dinner and brunch on weekends. 530 Ocean Drive, Miami Beach 305.532.4747.

