

# A Classic Manhattan Mexican Restaurant

By Laura, on September 21, 2010, 7:43 am

Original blog article: <http://www.89thandbroke.com/2010/09/el-parador-revie/>

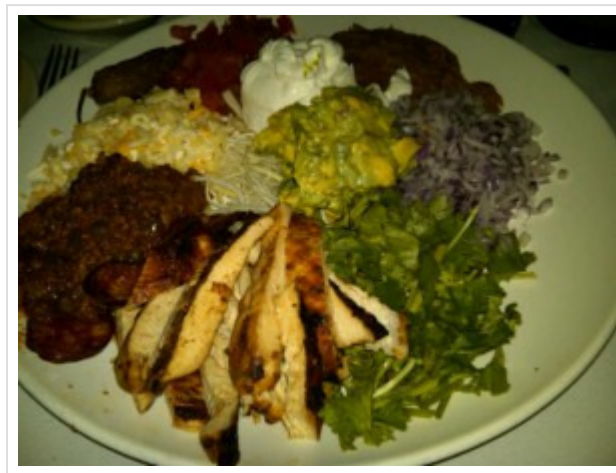
Last night my roommate and I headed to **El Parador Cafe**, which is right by our apartment on 34th between 1st and 2nd. El Parador is the oldest Mexican restaurant in NYC and in fact, my roommate's parents dined there 35 years ago.

We were starving after a day of moving, so we really appreciated the complimentary chips and salsa. What was interesting about this salsa was that it was served warm which I've never experienced before. The salsa had a nice kick to it, so beware if you aren't too keen on spicy foods. We were going to order guac, but to be honest, you can really fill up on this salsa so you may not need to order an appetizer.

For dinner, I settled on the taco platter which was \$20. The taco platter came with chicken, chorizo and beef so I was able to make my own tacos. For those looking to save a little, a large taco plate is only \$28 and can easily be shared by two people.

The spread on the plate was beautiful and quite colorful - heaps of tomatoes, chopped onions, cilantro, pile of guac and more.

I've never had a chorizo taco and it was my favorite, especially because of the smokey flavor. The chicken was good too, but I could have done without the beef. It was ground beef and pretty saucy and to be honest, I'm more of a shredded beef type of girl.



I was really impressed with the service at El Parador. The waiter refilled our chips quickly and we noticed a bartender hitting it off with one of the patrons. The lady at the bar later told us she was a regular and it was clear that El Parador really took care of its usual patrons, as she sipped on a margarita on the house. Not only was the staff friendly, but other patrons were very conversational with us and we ended our meal with some good conversation with a few people from our neighborhood.

El Parador is great for a relaxing dinner and you certainly won't feel rushed. If you are looking to catch up with parents or a dinner date, you may want to check out the city's oldest Mexican restaurant.

## ***The Basics***

*Name: **El Parador***

*Location: 325 E. 34th St between 1st and 2nd*

*Who to Bring: Parents, Date*

*Price: \$\$\$ Most entrees between \$20 - \$30*

*Overall: Great food and service. 4.5 Stars.*