

El Sombrero Azul – pupusas, yuca, enchiladas and more

It's not uncommon for even the most veteran *madrileños* to stumble upon tucked-away eateries they've never noticed. That's exactly what happened to me when I was strolling along the surprisingly calm **Calle de las Hileras** near Plaza Mayor. The spicy smells stopped me in my tracks, but what brought me inside was the *menú del día* written on the window in puff paint.

Monday through Friday, [El Sombrero Azul](#) offers a *menú salvadoreño-mexicano* that includes a *bebida* (Coke products, beer, sangria, or wine) with a starter big enough to fill you up (like the *pupusas* shown below), a **cocktail** (margaritas, mojitos, you name it) along with a delicious main entree. And for dessert, you can choose from coffee/tea, cheesecake, *bizcocho de tres leches*, and more. **All for 12€.**



What's a *pupusa*, you may ask?

Most countries have their own version of a warm, breaded 'sandwich' filled with meat, cheese, and/or veggies. Food pockets, if you will. **Pupusas are the food pockets of El Salvador**, and El Sombrero Azul has them down to a science. Shown above are two veggie versions, one with zucchini and the other with *frijoles* and cheese (my favorite).



Admittedly, I was a little disappointed in the main entree options, but only because I'm vegetarian. Meat lovers will feel right at home here among the *pastelitos de carne*, *cazuela de cochinita pibil*, *tacos flauta*, and the *plato de carne*. However, the accommodating staff offered me some pretty good alternatives, like fresh yuca (above) or *huevos rancheros*.





If you have room after the first two courses, kick back with a fresh cocktail. Pictured is a delicious **blackberry margarita**, but they also have mojitos and micheladas, as well as fresh Mexican fruit juices and horchata (although those aren't part of the menú).

TIP: The best time to go is during the week, because on weekends and holidays the menú price is 15€.

Oh, and the same space hosts a totally different concept by night: it's called La Cueva de Lola, and it's all about Spanish food and flamenco shows. Post to come soon on that!

Info

- [Facebook](#)
- Address: C/ Hileras 6
- Metro: Ópera or Sol

- Phone: 910 18 54 53

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