



Marlin Kaplan's Roseangel adds tacos and coolness to Gordon Square

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Joe Crea, The Plain Dealer



Credit Ed Weaver

A Roseangel Marlin Kaplan creation: Hanger Steak, Hand made soft corn tortilla with grilled hanger steak, topped with crispy onions and Chipotle mayo.

Restaurateur **Marlin Kaplan** insisted that his latest restaurant would open in July. Apparently, skepticism crept into my voice when I pressed the point -- remodeling and openings are capricious undertakings -- because Kaplan was all "No, no, watch me." You win, Marlin. His **Roseangel** -- the down-priced reinvention of partner **Rosita Kutkut's** former **La Boca**, not only opened close to target, it pretty much hits the bull's-eye. It's at 5800 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, on the edge of Cleveland's Gordon Square area, across from **Happy Dog**, if you need a cool landmark.

Tacos, salsas and a modest selection of sides are the big deals here. Order one of each and it'll set you back under \$11 (though you'll probably want seconds, and maybe a beer; brews range from \$2 to \$5.50). Tacos, built on hand-shaped and griddled tortillas, are heaped with tasty fillings, including a hauntingly delicious seared tuna with artichoke hearts and a just-fiery-enough grilled hanger steak version topped with crisp

onions and a smoky chipotle mayo -- to name just two of the 17 varieties. They are small but hefty hand-to-mouth fare, \$4.25 each, but bring along friends and order a platter of eight for \$30. There are good chips and really good salsas (one evening a cunning cantaloupe-and-cucumber combo) plus fine guacamole (at \$7, a splurge). Oh, and very seductive Sauza and triple sec margaritas.

The rooms are equally seductive, from the sexy bar to the center room tarted up in magenta croc-print wallpaper, and the expanded patio. Tacos, grandparents to today's "wraps," are eminently tactile, and Kaplan wanted to carry that sensuous style into the environment.

"I feel there should be a seamlessness between where you eat and what you eat," he says. "And I was going for a way different feeling here. I wasn't really building a restaurant, per se. This is a hybrid, a lot like Happy Dog isn't your usual neighborhood bar."

True on both counts. Here's to fitting neighbors. Coolness now reigns at West 58th Street and Detroit Avenue. 216-961-5800.

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