

FOOD

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CRITIC'S CHOICE

Inspired by South Asia

Mumbai street snacks, southern Indian dosas, Pakistani fast food. South Asia is your oyster if you know where to look (and it's not just in Artesia's Little India).

Valley India Café: The crisp golden dosas at Valley India Café rival the best in Little India. Among the varieties are a dosa splashed with a fresh egg as it cooks and smaller, thicker *set* dosa. They're the size of a dinner plate with a soft, porous texture that makes a great sponge for sopping up voluptuous sauces, especially vegetable *kurma*, a creamy curry with green chile, cashew and coconut. Subdue the heat with the mild *kothu parota*, a street food of chopped flaky griddle bread scrambled with egg and shredded chicken. It's died-and-gone-to-heaven good when drizzled with glowing yellow coconut-chile sauce.

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