



CUBANA has the Latin flavours all wrapped up...

By Carly Taylor

"Unashamedly inspired by the Buenavista Social Club, this Cuban style tapas bar is the most authentic and respected in town. The decor is understated, with a theme of 'faded elegance' throughout. A lively atmosphere is helped by great music and the energetic presence of Sheffield's Latin community."

THE OBSERVER BAR GUIDE (200 OF THE BEST BARS IN THE UK AND IRELAND)

It doesn't seem like two minutes since Trippet Lane bar 'Cubana' first swept into the city with its tasty tapas treats and lively Latino rhythms. With its bright yellow façade and authentic Latino atmosphere, the venue soon became a firm favourite on the Sheffield restaurant/bar scene. Cubana is Sheffield's original tapas bar and while others have opened, the Trippet Lane venue is still the place to be for authentic tastes and atmosphere.

Their food has won national acclaim and now six years after our very own bit of Havana first opened its doors, the team that brought salsa to the city are building on their success with the introduction of their latest exciting tapas menu.

The extensive menu combines classic Spanish tapas style dishes with South American flare and flavour and while many old favourites still remain, there are plenty of new dishes to choose from. Behind the scenes the same team, headed up by Chilean chef Fabian Cruz and culinary colleague Richie Russell, have run the kitchen from day one, which is quite a novelty in the catering industry and is without doubt a major factor as to why Cubana has such a great reputation for top quality and consistently tasty food.

"Reassuringly worn-in and packing a wall-to-wall Latino vibe, complete with impromptu bouts of salsa from the livelier waiting staff, Cubana's spirit is as upbeat as the cooking."
ANDREW HAIGH - THE GUARDIAN

Cubana's authenticity is also assured by the strong presence of Sheffield's Latin community, who certainly seem to love the venue. Tapas bar owner Adrian Bagnoli said: "Fabian is very creative in the kitchen, often trying out potential new dishes as staff meals. In fact before finalising any new menu, we all get together, sample the new offerings and collectively decide on which new dishes to include and which existing dishes to take off (often the hardest decision). We like to change the menu every six months or so, to give people something new to try when they come, but we still keep many old favourites too. We offer an interesting and varied vegetarian tapas selection, our infamous meatballs are always popular and the fillet of hake in sambuca sauce is one of the house specialities."

Cubana are also now taking bookings for their **"Christmas in Cuba"** party set menus offering a wide selection of tapas dishes accompanied by an abundance of Latino spirit. A refreshing change from the traditional turkey dinner! And it's not just the food that have people flocking to Cubana, the bar is also widely known for its authentic music and if you like to put on your dancing shoes every now and again, then Friday and Saturday nights are when Cubana really comes alive.

Viva Salsa is held every other Friday and offers a variety of Latin beats from salsa to mambo, bringing in some of the best DJ's on the salsa scene.

Brasilica is every Saturday night, with resident DJ Mark Jones playing a funky Latino mix of Brazilian and Afro-Cuban Rhythms. "We are one of the few venues in the city where you can book a table, have something to eat, enjoy good quality wines and cocktails and then dance the night away," Adrian said. "We want to mix it up a bit and offer something for everyone."

Cubana have also been hosting their **Club Buena Vista** live music nights for a couple of years now on Mondays and Tuesday evenings. The events have proved to be really popular and on the back of this, Cubana recently launched it's new **'Casa de Musica'** (House of Music) evenings, bringing in some of the more exclusive and talented Latin bands from all around the country for monthly Sunday evening fiestas. "We decided that we wanted to offer customers something a little bit special and the new Casa de Musica will do just that, giving customers who love the music a chance to see some slightly more exclusive performers." Admission to the event costs £13.50, which includes a full tapas buffet, live entertainment and dancing through till midnight.

If you want something a little different to wash down your food, then, as well as a fantastic selection of bottled beers and quality wines, the bar is well known in the city for their great selection of authentic cocktails including some more unusual and exotic concoctions. Cubana was also nominated as one of Sheffield's best wine bars in the 2006 Westside Bar and Restaurant Awards, making it perfect for a relaxing drink any day of the week.

So whether you come for the food, the music or just a drink or two, Cubana certainly has something for everyone.

Opening Hours:
Mon-Thurs 5pm - Midnight
Fri 5pm - 1.00am
Sat Midday - 1.00am
Sundays Available for private hire from Midday to Midnight



CUBANA

Cuban bar / Tapas bar

www.cubanatapasbar.co.uk

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