

Dish: Everything we tried at El Meze was unusual and delicious

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(575-751-3337), a 10-month-old restaurant on the far side of town in the hamlet of El Prado. It's amazing. The menu tells us that *meze* is an Arabic word meaning "table" so the dishes reflect a definite Mediterranean influence with touches of Moorish and Spanish flavors here and there.

Everything we tried was unusual and delicious, including blue cheese-stuffed and fried green olives, luscious ripe white nectarines with Serrano ham and shaved Manchego cheese, and a bodacious 21-day dry-aged ribeye steak that melted in your mouth. It was

served with crispy lavender- and thyme-scented frites. Yum!

To share a tip or dish about the local food scene, send an e-mail to chefjohnnyvee@aol.com or call (505) 699-3419.

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