



SHOBA NARAYAN

DELHI JOURNAL (PART II): THE VERDICT ON VEDA

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Everyone in Delhi has an opinion about Veda, and most of them are bad. Established by Chef Suvir Saran, who also runs [Devi in New York](#), everyone agrees, scores high on decor. It looks like an Indian boudoir. But the food, and the prices? Delhi matrons throw up their hands in disgust. I went to Veda with low expectations, and consequently, I was pleasantly surprised. The food is modern Indian, tasty and, best of all, light. No *Mughlai* sauces, no smothering of spices, no fiery chiles that beat the daylight out of your tongue. Service was sympathetic. After I ordered several dishes, my waiter said: "That's too much. Take out the mushroom dish; it's not in season anyway." I would go back. And then there's [Diva](#) (think Italian this time), which is located in the popular M Block market, where you can shop for everything from bejeweled shoes to shawls. The cool, minimalist confines of Diva are refreshing after the chaos and cacophony outside. I found the food a trifle too salty, but that may be because Indians prefer it that way. Risottos, pastas, soups, and breads are the staples here. Delhi is a meat-lovers' city, and [Bukhara restaurant](#), therefore, is a shrine. J. P. Singh and the 16 chefs who work under him marinate and cure meats and chicken all day to be served for dinner. No wonder Bill Clinton ate four meals in a row at this restaurant. His daughter, however, has the dubious distinction of having a vegetarian dish named after her: the Chelsea Platter.



A cool, calm, and mostly Italian Diva.

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