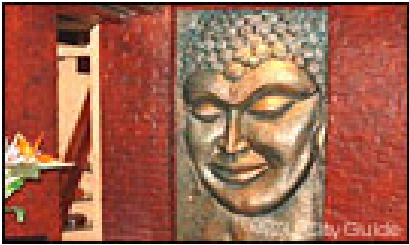


Tamarind Bay

Authentic Indian in the heart of Harvard Square



Tamarind Bay
75 Winthrop Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
617-491-4552

In an out-of-the-way corner of Harvard Square is a small piece of bona fide Indian real estate: Tamarind Bay. Although the front door may be hard to find (look for the orange entryway to the right of the restaurant's street sign), behind it is a treasure in the form of truly home-style Indian cuisine. The owner -- a former cooking show host in India -- scoffs at the "Americanization" of the average Indian restaurant and strives to educate diners on India's gourmet heritage, serving an eclectic array of made-to-order dishes. Instead of the usual buffet fare, here you will find succulent whole grilled quail and scallops, raw banana dumplings and asparagus kebobs, along with other unusual plates that aim to introduce you to Indian dishes like they make "back home."

The décor is another nod to Tamarind's Indian roots, with a cozy gold dining room and giant smiling Buddha sculpture that welcomes you as you step inside (formerly occupied by Casa Mexico, an architectural team was brought on to transform its vibe). Tamarind Bay shows there's much more to Indian cuisine than tandoori and curry, although the kitchen certainly does these justice as well. -- *Melanie Miller*
(Photo: *Melanie Miller*)

Restaurant - Indian