

Bringing Back the

# DINNER SHOW

ARTICLE BY

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Right across Spinola Bay, there is a door, next to the entrance of Hotel Juliani, that leads down to a magical place. It takes a step back into the past and recreates the vibrant elegance and stylishness of the 60s and 70s. Intricately designed tablecloths and beautiful glassware are carefully placed on tables garnished for a relaxed, elegant dining experience; warm tones and dim lighting enriches the ambiance with an atmosphere of romantic classicism; vibrant illustrations of jazz artists dot the space with character, and the décor blends seamlessly to rekindle the fire of the vintage decades. But The Jazz Cave also keeps its feet firmly in the present.

# The Jazz Cave is not a stop along the way, it is a journey to another time

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From the welcome glass of champagne, to the decadent desserts, the food at The Jazz Cave felt like the manifestation of indulgence. The menu offered a number of options for vegetarians, which were as thoughtfully created as the other dishes.

I had beef carpaccio as a starter and corn-fed baby chicken with Cajun sauce and roast vegetables as the main course. The most singular aspect that distinguishes a fine dining restaurant from anyone else is the ingredients. At The Jazz Cave, ingredients are fresh, and of the highest quality found, the portion filling, and the presentation pleasing without being over the top.

The tables were spread out around the stage, allowing to fully experience the soothing, gentle, but tasteful music. One thing I hate is when the music is too loud, so I was glad I could engage in conversation with ease. After each performance, everyone applauded and, after a while, a couple made their way to the middle of the restaurant and danced along to the music. At that moment, I couldn't help but smile.

Fact is, any review worth its salt doesn't just involve an account of the writer's experience. So we had our eyes on the other patrons. We were a bit early, so we had the staff's full attention for a while, but I was pleased to see that they give the same level of attention to every customer.

After dinner, I got the chance to have coffee with Daniel, the manager. He had been the manager of a multitude of restaurants both throughout the Middle East and Europe, but it is with Malta that he fell in love. At The Jazz Cave, he has recreated the classy elegance of dinner shows in the 60s and 70s but did not shy away from blending it seamlessly with the contemporary. The Jazz Cave now also offers vegan selections as well as vegetarian dishes and hosts special events every Sunday.

If you just want to go somewhere to eat quickly before heading off to somewhere else, don't come to this place. If you want an experience – whether that is a tasteful evening with friends or family, a romantic date, or to celebrate a special occasion, this is the place for you. The Jazz Cave is not a stop along the way, it is a journey to another time.