





Iftar at Sambusek, at the Rosewood Abu Dhabi

Let us start by saying that the Rosewood on Maryah Island is one of the city's premier luxury hotels - so that should set the tone for the iftar.

In fact, in a nutshell, I can anticipate that you will receive absolutely stellar service, on an international scale. This is one of the highest level iftars you can imagine, and yet, perhaps the defining characteristic, it is a nonchalant, understated sophistication that makes you feel truly comfortable and at home.

At the top of luxury, and at the same time providing an easy-going respectful feel to the evening - it was brilliantly done.





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The seating area was composed of a very cleverly transformed terrace, enclosed and air-conditioned, while still overlooking the Gulf waters, and inviting in the lovely light of the setting sun.





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An indoor dining area is also available, should you prefer.







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And also a number of small, enclosed and private seating areas are arranged so that you may prepare for the ending of your fast in comfort.





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The dining area is separate from the buffet and food serving area, which means the dining experience is removed from noise and clutter, and conversation at the tables is pleasant and relaxed. Still three direct passageways are provided to the buffet hall, so it is adjacent.





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In the dining hall, fresh drinks are waiting for you, and they are served at your table.

Noteworthy is the very thick and wholesome tamarind juice.



Sambusek is the name of the restaurant, and it specializes in Lebanese cuisine.

And so it should come as no surprise that this iftar buffet carries forward the proud and famous culinary traditions of the Levant, at the highest level.

This is immediately evident if you sample Sambusek's signature starter dish - the humble hummus!

A beloved dish, enjoyed by all walks of life, and found on tables from the farmhouse to the palace. But there is a difference between just hummus and Sambusek's hummus!





Not for nothing is it presented as a signature dish!

I was totally floored by this version of hummus, that I decided I will not comment or describe it further, so that I do not spoil the surprise, and allow you to have the chance to experience on your own terms what can be considered the *crème de la crème* of world hummus.





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Yes, it is time - let us gather in the buffet hall.





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An unhurried and uncluttered layout greets the Rosewood's dignified guests for the evening, and while the simple elegance of the interior design and high columned ceiling basks in natural light, the way the buffet is arranged leads to plenty of calm, positive space.





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I couldn't say if Feng Shui masters were consulted for capturing the radiant energies of the furnishings, but I am sure that culinary masters were at work in preparing the dishes!







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An outstanding quality, and a versatile selection, from numerous and very very delicious appetizers, to top-tasting shwarma and folded manakeesh - and then a fantastic lamb ouzi platter, fit for a king!





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Further delights beckon gently!









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The atmosphere throughout is exceptional at Sambusek, and indeed this Ramadan should not pass without experiencing a tip-top iftar such as that on offer at the Rosewood.

And we haven't yet seen the desserts!







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From traditional local and Lebanese favorites to exquisite creations from across the globe, the sweets section is exceptional!







And so the evening goes on in good cheer, with friends and family dining together, engaged in laughter and conversation, and pausing every so often in silence to close the eyes in delight at a particular flavor.

Until the last bite of joy,





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or stay until Suhoor - you are at home at the Rosewood.





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