

North Shore's Raven Pizza: Saucy new treats

Mia Stainsby

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Sooner rather than later you'll be thinking pizza. It's the cold making your body crave bread and meat and melted cheese all smooshed together.

But let's make it pizza with substance, flavour and life; after all, good pizza is an affordable upgrade.

Raven Pizza, which opened in March, will satisfy those growling pangs. The tiny little place on Lonsdale is an offshoot of The Raven Pub on Deep Cove Road and owner Jennifer Crawford (who runs it with husband Peter) said the pizzas are popular at the pub so it made sense to take it further afield.



CREDIT: Glenn Baglo/Vancouver Sun
Khalid Mostafa-Zade delivers a pizza fresh from the oven, at Raven Pizza.

This is mostly a take-out and delivery joint (delivered anywhere in North Van except Deep Cove) but there are a few window seats for sitting and eating. Raven pizza's crust is good and the toppings, including the sauce are fresh. "We use all fresh vegetables as opposed to frozen. A local meat supplier makes artisan meat for us and everything's fresh. There are no short cuts," says Jennifer. The dough for the crust, she says, "is like mother-made bread. We mix it up, it rises like bread."

The best seller is the Raven Special, with ham, pepperoni, salami, onions, green peppers, mushrooms and black olives. They sell more of that than all of the other ones combined.

They come in small, medium, and large sizes (\$15, \$19 and \$25) or you can create your own or purchase by the slice (\$3 per slice).

While waiting for our pizzas, we were offered some cheese sticks (cheese atop foccacia-like dough) and loved them. You can buy a pan of them (about 16 slices) for \$4. "They should be more expensive, but they're not," says Jennifer.

Meanwhile the pizza maker was noisily crashing and banging about. I'd jump a foot in the air as he'd throw metal pans into a pile where they crashed like cymbals. A customer asked what was going on back there and I expected a bear attack but pizza guy smiled. Had he attended one too many rock concerts?

mstainsby@vancouversun.com

RAVEN PIZZA. 1750 Lonsdale Ave., North Vancouver. 604-987-4441.
www.ravenpizzalonsdale.com

Sun Restaurant Critic. mstainsby@vancouver.sun.com. Restaurant visits are conducted anonymously and interviews are done by phone.

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