

Eat & Drink

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QUILOMBERO EAST INDIA ★★★★★

THE area around East India Docks is a bit of a no man's land, populated by towers and office blocks, dual carriageways and the odd corner shop. Bringing much-needed light, colour and flavour is Quilombero (Argentinian Spanish slang for 'rowdy'), the latest project from the team behind the late, lamented Rita's in Hackney.

The menu blends Italian and Argentinian cuisine (many Italians emigrated there in the 19th century), there's an outdoor oven grilling meat and fish, and the decor is olive greens, bright oranges and royal blues.

My mate and I kick off lunch with a couple of assured cocktails: a sweet Amaretto Sour and a smoky Sbagliato (£7 each). Chef Gabe Pryce left film school to focus on cooking and the Odeon's loss is our gain.

The menu is short and snappy. We start with a hefty plate of charcuterie, including speck and

mortadella (£12.50), accompanied by an intense Guinness mayo.

We share a phenomenal aubergine parmigiana (£8.50), which tastes as if the tomato sauce has been simmering for days, with moreish rich, chewy aubergine.

A side of grilled hispi cabbage and habanero chilli (£4.50) is all tender leaves and spicy kick, while fresh, crunchy broccoli (£6) is sprinkled with sesame seeds and served with a light, lemony crème fraîche.

Desserts are ace - we loved the baked apple with ricotta and caramel sauce (£5) - while the dinner menu promises more delights such as pig's head tacos, bavette steak and salmon.

Quilombero loses a star for location but you never know - it might help turn this area into the next Shoreditch. **LAURA MILLAR**



@quilomberoldn Perfect blend: Quilombero serves a rumbustious fusion of Argentinian and Italian cuisine

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EAT & DRINK

News and reviews from London's buzzing bar and restaurant scene compiled by **JENNY STALLARD**

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SMART FOOD

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