

Eating L.A.

It's your city, you might as well taste it.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 04, 2007

➤ Taste test: Shamshiri on a summer evening



crusty Persian rice, left

Sometimes the best reason to try a new restaurant is when the location fits elegantly into your plans for the evening. In our case, the route last Saturday involved delivering a teenager to deepest west Glendale. I remembered from my regrettably brief tenure in **Weight Watchers** that **Shamshiri** in the same

complex looked like a promising choice in that neighborhood, and Matt had never had Persian food, so voila, a plan was hatched.

Shamshiri has various locations around town -- the Glendale location has plenty of parking and a patio that's pleasant on warm nights. We started with a refreshing tomato and cucumber salad with a bracingly sour dressing - it would have been a great foil to something oily like hummus but we didn't want to fill up too fast. I insisted Matt try fesenjan, the chicken stew



made with pomegranates and crushed walnuts. **Fesenjan**, being a murky stew with a burnished burgundy color, doesn't photograph well, but it was delicious -- fruity without being cloying and not as oily as some versions. The fesenjan was served with a large plate of rice with the crunchy, buttery crust included, a delicacy for Persian

diners. I had a chicken dish in a very mild saffron gravy (*adas polo*, above) served with an enormous plate of rice studded with barberries, dates, lentils and raisins. I liked the combo of tasty items in the rice, but the overall effect was a bit bland. It does end up



being a lot of rice, so if you're carb-phobic, you might want to find some substitutions among the appetizer salads. Most of the dishes are available in vegetarian versions, the prices are reasonable, portions are huge and the service was efficient -- so we'll definitely add **Shamshiri** to our list of reliable places in Glendale. It's more casual than some Persian

restaurants, so it's a good stop on the way to a movie, shopping trip ...or **Weight Watchers** meeting!

Shamshiri