

Eating your way through Eastern Iowa



EXPLORE



Eastern Iowa travel,
summer events &
festivals

The Gazette

May 13, 2007



Explore the tastes of E. Iowa

Although you don't have to travel far in Iowa to get a tenderloin, ribs or a burger, many will travel far to get just the right one.

The Gazette took recommendations from readers for tasty treats in Eastern Iowa. Many responses came in — everything from breakfast to light lunches, five-course meals and desserts.

The Gazette chose a sampling of unique and oft-requested menu items served throughout Eastern Iowa. Some are in small towns off the beaten path — but are well worth the trip.

So, whether you're in the mood for a Peanut Butter Cheeseburger (at T Bocks Bar and Grill in Decorah), Couscous with Algerian vegetables (at Schera's in Elkader) or Spinach Ravioli (at Givanni's in Iowa City), let this year's Explore guide you — and your stomach — to a tasty destination.

As always, Explore also includes a guide to Eastern Iowa fairs and a calendar of summer events and festivals.

North African cuisine

Schera's Restaurant

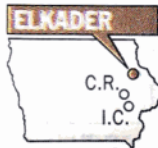
■ **Specialty:** Couscous with Algerian vegetables



Duane Crock/The Gazette

Couscous with Algerian vegetables

■ **Why it is special:** Partners Brian Bruening and Frederique Boudouani bring North African cuisine to Eastern Iowa, via Boudouani's French Algerian heritage, and mostly family recipes. Schera's offers a mix of American and Algerian foods. "Part of what we're trying to do is open people's eyes to a new cuisine," Bruening says. A slow-cooked vegetable stew of zucchini, onions, carrots and root vegetables seasoned with tumeric and cinnamon is poured over a bed of couscous, which is a pasta staple of North African cooking. The pasta and vegetables are topped with a skewer of beef, chicken or vegetables marinated in spices then grilled on a char grill. The partners have owned



the restaurant, previously Keystone Eatery & Spirits, since December.

■ **Address:** 107 S. Main St., Elkader

■ **Phone:** (563) 245-1992

■ **Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; summer brunch, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

■ **Payment method:** Cash, checks, credit cards