



It cost NIS 25 per person.

You are going to want souvenirs from this meal. For the ridiculously low price of NIS 5 and NIS 7, you can take home containers of these delicious salads, including the hummus. This is certainly the best price in town for the best salads in town.

We were just slowing down on the salads when our main courses appeared. Out came two fresh-from-the-fire *shipudim* for my long-time dining companion and a burger for the boy (NIS 72). He likes his burgers straight with no vegetables or sauces that obscure the flavor of the meat and this is just what he got, with a heaping portion of chips.

Each shipud of pargit and chicken wings (NIS 35 each) was speared with a substantial portion of meat marinated in a delicious sauce. The meat was soft, tender, tasty and, of course, had the distinctive flavor of the coals.

THERE ARE a good number of

restaurant is also gluten-sensitive and will suggest gluten-free dishes.

"Have you had enough to eat?" I asked somewhat facetiously.

This is the first time that I can recall the boy turning down dessert. And not for lack of choices. I guess that says it all.

Ala'Esh is located in the Ligad Center, an area with mostly office buildings a distance from the main commercial centers of Modi'in. Kfir and Gal expected the lunch crowd in the offices to be their primary business but you can't keep a good thing quiet. Word got out and Ala'Esh became a popular destination for evening diners.

The Ligad Center is just off Highway 443, the highway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Given the traffic conditions these days, you can work up quite an appetite in the time it takes to travel between these main cities. Ala'Esh is the best eating on the road. Make it a plan to stop at Ala'Esh on your next trip between cities.

The bottom line is that Ala'Esh is a high-end restaurant at street-food prices. A never-ending flow of salads and a moderately priced main course will set you back about NIS 100 per person. At these prices, you can afford to order extravagantly. Ala'Esh is most definitely a family restaurant.

The restaurant can accommodate private meetings, parties and get-togethers during restaurant hours for up to 40 guests in a separate party room.

*Ala'Esh*

*House of Meat Restaurant*

*13 Hareches Blvd., Ligad Center, Modi'in*

*Phone: (08) 665-8899*

*Kashrut: Rabbanut Modi'in. Glatt meat and Beit Yosef Mehadrin chickens, vegetables are Gush Katif*

*Hours: Sunday-Thursday, 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m.; Friday 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; after Shabbat until midnight*