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Nawabi Dastarkhwan- Study on Variations and Acceptance of the Cuisine of Lucknow, in Mumbai

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Abstract: Indian cuisine is a rich tapestry of regional and traditional culinary styles, each cherished for its distinctive flavors. Influenced by religion, culture, and centuries of Islamic rule, notably under the Mughals, Indian food boasts a diverse array of influences. Lucknow, often referred to as the "City of Nawabs" or the "Golden City of India," stands as a testament to this culinary heritage. Lucknowi cuisine offers a regal and opulent dining experience, steeped in historical etiquette and luxury. Perfected by skilled khansamas in the royal kitchens, these dishes mirror the lavish lifestyle of the nawabs.

The Awadhi cuisine, rooted in Lucknow's history, plays a pivotal role in shaping Lucknowi culinary traditions. While today, Lucknowi fare can be found on menus across the nation, many contemporary establishments may not fully capture the traditional richness of authentic Lucknowi food. Retaining the true essence of this cuisine proves challenging due to the complexities involved in recreating historical cooking techniques, acquiring specific ingredients, and employing traditional equipment. While remnants of the authentic flavors persist in the old quarters of Lucknow and select pockets across the country, modern adaptations have become inevitable.

This research endeavors to investigate the variations in Lucknowi cuisine as served in Mumbai's restaurants and discern the preferences of diners regarding these adaptations.

Keywords: Lucknowi cuisine, Awadhi cuisine, Variations, Acceptance, Mumbai.

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