

The Detroit News

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JANE
RAYBURN
RESTAURANTS

More winsome — in fact, a genuine *Topkapi* find — is Ayse's **Courtyard Cafe**, another strip-mall experience, this time in Ann Arbor, this time Turkish, this time ethereal.

This is the small realm of owner/chef Ayse Uras — “I’m everything,” she says, as she answers the phone with a simple “hello.” And her way in the kitchen is worth it all. Pilaf and *borek*, or pies, meat stews and vegetarian sides abound:

Eggplant and green peppers sautéed in olive oil, rice pilaf dotted with pinenuts, chicken liver, currants and dill, the Monday-special *durum*, or pita filled with ground lamb kebab, roasted tomatoes, peppers and onion-sumac relish. And the seductive seasonal loveliness of leeks braised in olive oil and lemon juice.

Ayse's Courtyard Cafe, 1703 Plymouth Rd. in the Courtyard Shops mall; (313) 662-1711. Open Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.