



The  
Thorn Tree Cafe

MENU



SAROVA

Stanley

A STORY TO TELL

NAIROBI • SINCE 1902



The  
Thorn Tree Cafe

## BEFORE YOU DIG IN

Menu items may contain nuts and other allergen products. Please advise the server of any food allergies you may have.

As part of Sarova Stanley's commitment to sustainable cuisine, this menu contains locally sourced and organic items wherever possible. All cuisines are prepared using fresh and nutritionally balanced ingredients

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This menu contains dishes prepared with a variety of ingredients. We've made it easier for you to identify them using special icons



Chefs  
Recommendation



Vegan



Pork



Gluten free



Nuts



Seafood



Wellness

(Prices are in Kenya Shillings (KES) and are inclusive of statutory government taxes and levies)

## Soups

**Mediterranean Tomato and Basil** ..... 800/=  
Roasted tomatoes and fresh basil blended with a touch of cream (V) (GF) (F)

**Butternut Cappuccino** ..... 800/=  
Cream of butternut, soymilk foam, parsley garlic crostini (V) (GF)

**French Onion Soup** ..... 750/=  
Caramelized onions in a rich beef broth, topped with a Gruyère cheese crouton



## Salads

**Tandoori Chicken Salad** ..... 1,300/=  
Grilled tandoori chicken on a bed of mixed greens with cucumber, tomatoes, and a yogurt dressing (W) (GF)

**Nicoise Salad** ..... 1,300/=  
Mixed greens with tuna, green beans, potatoes, olives, and boiled eggs (W) (GF)

## Small Plates

**Lollipop BBQ Chicken Wings** ..... 1,200/=  
With chili jam, fried shallots (GF)

**Falafel Quenelle** ..... 1,000/=  
Fried chickpea, beetroot and cucumber salad, hummus spread (V)

**Cheesy Guacamole Fries** ..... 950/=  
Crispy fries, melted mozzarella cheese with guacamole (V)

**Juicy Swahili Samosas** ..... 950/=  
Filo pastry stuffed with vegetable or mutton, salsa verde

**Ugali Fries** ..... 750/=  
Coriander, green chilies and chili dip (V) (GF)

**Mediterranean Quinoa Salad** ..... 1,200/=  
Quinoa, chickpeas, bell peppers, cucumbers, red onions, and parsley with a lemon-tahini dressing (V) (W) (GF) (F)

**Caprese Salad** ..... 1,000/=  
Sliced tomatoes, mozzarella, and basil drizzled with balsamic reduction (V) (W) (GF)

# MAIN COURSES



## Mediterranean

**Mediterranean Grilled Chicken** ..... 2,200/=  
Marinated chicken breast served with couscous and grilled vegetables (W) (GF)

**Chicken Souvlaki** ..... 2,200/=  
Grilled chicken skewers served with pita, tzatziki, and Greek salad

**Greek Moussaka** ..... 2,000/=  
Layered eggplant, ground beef, and béchamel sauce

**Vegetarian Tagine** ..... 1,750/=  
Moroccan vegetable stew with chickpeas, served with couscous (V) (GF)

## Classics

**Bouillabaisse** ..... 3,200/=  
French seafood stew with fish, mussels, and shrimp in a saffron broth (GF)

**French Coq au Vin** ..... 2,400/=  
Chicken braised with red wine, mushrooms, and pearl onions, served with mashed potatoes (F)

**Beef Bourguignon** ..... 2,400/=  
Beef stewed in red wine with mushrooms, carrots, and pearl onions

**Slow Braised Lamb Shank** ..... 2,400/=  
Creamy mash potato, wilted spinach and mint jus (GF)

**Grilled Sicilian Red Snapper** ..... 2,300/=  
Sauté baby spinach and Buerre Blanc (GF)



## Asian

**Cantonese Pork** ..... 2,500/=  
Pork belly, Chinese five spice (P) (GF)

**Butter Chicken** ..... 2,200/=  
Tender chicken in a creamy tomato sauce served with basmati rice and chapati (V) (GF)

**Lamb Rogan Josh** ..... 2,200/=  
Aromatic lamb curry served with basmati rice and chapati

**Tandoori Mushroom Masala** ..... 1,900/=  
Button mushrooms, dhal, marinated in rich robust spices (V) (GF)

**Shahi Paneer** ..... 1,800/=  
Indian cottage cheese in a creamy tomato sauce, dhal, served with basmati rice (V) (GF)

**Stir Fried Tofu** ..... 1,700/=  
Marinated Bean curd with chilly bean sauce (V) (GF)



## Italian

**Shrimp Scampi** ..... 2,600/=  
Shrimp sautéed in garlic and white wine, served with linguine (GF)

**Pollo alla Parmigiana** ..... 2,200/=  
Breaded chicken breast topped with marinara and mozzarella, served with spaghetti

**Chicken Alfredo** ..... 2,000/=  
Penne pasta on rich creamy cheese sauce with seasonal wild mushrooms, topped with Parmigiano

**Lasagna Bolognese** ..... 1,800/=  
Layers of pasta, meat sauce, béchamel, and cheese (GF)

**Rigatoni Arabiatta** ..... 1,700/=  
Rigatoni pasta on a mild spicy tomato and pesto sauce, topped with mascarpone (V)

## Grills

### OUR GRILL EXPERIENCE (GF)

Marinated salmon (GF) ..... 3,900/=  
Jumbo prawns (3 pieces) (GF) ... 3,900/=  
Angus beef fillet steak ..... 3,400/=  
Beef short ribs ..... 2,800/=  
Limuru pork chops (P) ..... 2,800/=

#### Choice of sauce

Mushroom, pepper, peri peri, Cabernet Sauvignon

#### BEEF

**We age our own steaks**  
(Kindly ask your server)

Sirloin steak ..... 3,600/=  
T-bone steak ..... 3,600/=

All steaks are served with homemade fries, fresh market vegetables



All Main courses are served with an option of French fries, steamed rice, Sauté Potatoes, Ugali or Mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetables of the day.

## OUR HERITAGE

**Beef 'Sukuma Wiki'**  
beef fillet sautéed with  
kale, onion & tomato  
served with steamed  
Kenyan rice  
2,400/=

**1902 Poussin chicken**  
Half spring chicken  
tossed with tangy chili  
sauce and coleslaw  
2,200/=

**Sarova Club House  
Sandwich**  
Slice chicken, avocado,  
aged gouda, fried egg, and  
mixed lettuce, tomato  
2,000/=



## Wraps, Sandwiches and Burgers

**Grilled Prime Beef Burger/Chicken & Avocado  
Burger** ..... 2,000/=  
Streaky bacon, balsamic onion, artisan organic  
cheddar and fried egg

**Blue Fin Tuna Sandwich on Brioche bread** ..... 2,000/=  
Pan seared tuna, Asian slaw, pickled ginger, black  
sesame sprouts and wasabi mayo

**Grilled Paneer and Capsicum** ..... 1,800/=  
Cheesy onion bread – deep fried yoghurt marinated  
paneer steak, chili dip, onion rings



## Pizzas

**Sea food pizza** ..... 2,000/=  
Shrimps, calamari, red snapper, tomato sauce, mozzarella  
and dill

**Thorn Tree Deluxe** ..... 2,000/=  
Beef/chicken, salami, bacon, mushrooms, arugula and  
cilantro

**Short Rib and Mushroom** ..... 2,000/=  
Roasted mushrooms, slow cooked beef ribs, grilled onions,  
arugula and chilly oil

**Chicken and Burrata** ..... 1,800/=  
Baby spinach, chicken strips, olives, and burrata cheese

**Neapolitan** ..... 1,500/=  
Marinara sauce, mozzarella, olive oil and fresh basil

## Sides

- Fresh greens (creamed spinach, mchicha, market vegetables)
- Mash potatoes
- Steamed basmati rice

- Roast potatoes wedges
- Boiled potatoes
- Chapatti brown/White  
Each @600/=






## Desserts

**Exotic Fruit Plate** ..... 1,400/=  
(sugar free)

**Chocolate Hush Lush: For Instant Comfort** ..... 1,000/=  
Baked pecan nut intense hot chocolate in mug  
& Tahitian vanilla ice cream 

**Cheesecake: The Cure For A Bad Day** ..... 1,000/=  
An array of chilled and baked version of  
cheese, Graham cracker crumbles

**Tiramisu Nostrano: The Ultimate Dessert  
Therapy** ..... 1,000/=  
Flowing Mascarpone Tiramisu, coffee gelee 

**Pink Salt Caramel: Just a Little bit of  
Caramel Heaven** ..... 1,000/=  
Salted caramel sundae, brown butter sponge,  
caramelita

**Selections of Ice Creams** ..... 450/= (per scoop)  
Vanilla, chocolate, salted caramel, fruit flavor  
(sugar free option available-Ask your server)





# THE THORN TREE STORY

The morning of 30th may 1898 brought the weary builders of the Uganda railway to Nyarobe the last stretch of the savannah before the daunting Rift Valley. The engineers decided that this would form a logistic base before tackling the considerable engineering tasks that lay ahead. For many years, one of the lines to up-country passed extremely close to The Stanley.

Thus began the story of the city of Nairobi with shops opening up. Those shops often had more than one business in them. With the growth of the city, the need for accommodation facilities arose and that is how the Stanley Hotel was born in Victoria street, now Tom Mboya Street.

Nyarobe's first hotel built in 1902 above the Tommy Woods Hardware store shared with Mayence Bent Milner's shop. It was made of old wood and tin, easily available materials at the time. So, the history of the Stanley and the railways are intrinsically linked and inseparable as both entities grew and prospered in tandem over the years.

The Thorn tree café was established in the very same place where a Naivasha Acacia Thorn Tree which was a landmark at a cross road between two trading routes existing before

Nairobi was even born was used as the first "post office" by pinning on the trunk messages for fellow travellers; a tradition which we still keep alive. We now have emails but at that time they had "tree mails". The Thorn Tree remains a world famous landmark to date

In 1959 the Acacia tree was replanted. The tree is now at its third generation and was last replanted in 1998. At its base, there is a time capsule with a number of memorabilia buried by the students of St. Christopher's Preparatory School i.e. a wig, a pair of safari boots, kiwi shoe polish, Wrigley's chewing gum, a list of Kenyan music producers popular in the 90s e.g. DJ Pinye and Clemo photographs, the Nigerian super eagles hat, a pack of malaria-quin, lipstick, pencil, BIC black pen, Hardy Boys Novel, map of Nairobi, one 20 shilling note, one 10 shilling note, one yoyo. This time capsule will be retrieved in 2048 when the next generation tree will be planted.

Today, over 100yrs later not only does the thorn tree remain the most popular place in Nairobi, but has also inspired a host of Royal Safaris and legend such as RH Prince Edward, Ernest Hemingway, Elspeth Huxley, Karen Blixen, Winston Churchill, President Theodore Roosevelt, Frank Sinatra, Ava Gardner, Sean Connery, Sidney Poitier have all enjoyed the Thorn Tree experience which can only be described as unique, very special and truly taking a step back in history. We hope to be able to add your name as well to this list.

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**Stanley**

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