



The 38 Essential Restaurants in Phoenix

Where to go now for plate-sized fry bread, uni-oyster shooters, filet mignon-stuffed tortelloni, and fancy Indian chaat.

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02.18.2024

Although the metro Phoenix food scene naturally took a hit during the pandemic, it has been coming roaring back in recent years, offering more and better choices for memorable dining in just about every category.

The city has managed to keep distinguished old-timers such as Durant's (for steaks), Great Wall (for dim sum), Haji Baba (for Middle Eastern), and Marcellino's (for pasta), while adding exciting newcomers to our roster. These days, there are destination mom-and-pops (Confluence in Carefree), sophisticated neighborhood joints (Latin-influenced Vecina), regional Mexican (Casa Corazon), sigh-inducing omakase (Hai Noon), and dazzling fine dining restaurants (Christopher's at Wrigley Mansion). And that's just a snapshot of what the Valley has to offer. Take a look. There's a lot to like — and joyously eat.

Marcellino Ristorante

Situated in the heart of Old Town, this intimate, softly lit Italian restaurant, which features live music Thursdays and Saturdays, has the vibe of an old-fashioned supper club. Although chef-owner Marcellino Verzino's menu offers plenty of classics — Caprese, carpaccio, and gnocchi Sorrentino, for example — it doesn't read like every other Italian restaurant in town. To really appreciate what this chef can do, order from the specialties section, where you'll find tortelloni, stuffed with pureed filet mignon and bathed in butter sauce with black truffle shavings as well as thyme-infused pappardelle with red wine-splashed rabbit ragu.