



The Desert Sun

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2009 SECTION D

Food & Drink



RICHARD LUI THE DESERT SUN

Chad Woodruff outside the Babe's Bar-B-Que Grill & Brewhouse with the center-cut 14-ounce pork chop with an apple cinnamon glaze and garlic mashed potatoes. Babe's Bar-B-Que Grill & Brewhouse is one of the restaurants participating at the Palm Springs Desert Resorts Restaurant Week 2009.

DISCOVER A PARADISE OF FINE DINING

BY JUDITH SALKIN

The Desert Sun

Nothing, they say, succeeds like success.

That old adage might not be appropriate when it comes to Wall Street these days, but it does for the upcoming Palm Springs Desert Resorts Restaurant Week. Truthfully, "Restaurant Week" is a bit of a misnomer — the dining affair starts Sunday and runs through June 19, and is split between 70 west valley (Desert Hot Springs, Palm Springs, Cathedral City and Rancho Mirage) and east valley (Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta and Indio) locations.

Each prix fixe menu offers a choice of appetizer, entree and dessert, priced at \$24-\$36 per person (beverages, tax and gratuity not included).

"I'm excited about it," said Arthur L. Vasquez, executive chef and general manager at Babe's Bar-B-Que and Brewhouse in Rancho Mirage. "In this economy, we absolutely welcome an event like Restaurant Week."

It's the all-for-one, one-for-all attitude Vasquez likes. "The restaurant community in this valley is very tight-knit," he said. "I really find the independent restaurants to be more exciting."

In Palm Springs, Adam Votaw, executive chef for Circa 59 at the Riviera Resort and Spa, moved to the valley from Miami during last year's inaugural Restaurant Week.

"The concept isn't new to me," he said. "We have Miami Spice Week and there's a New York Spice. You get people who don't normally go to a restaurant coming out."

Resorts can have a great restaurant, but getting locals to take notice can be difficult.

"That's why we decided to participate this year," Votaw said. "We just reopened and people are still discovering that (Circa 59) is here. It's a chance to reintroduce our restaurant and resort to the valley."

As a restaurant owner (Copley's in Palm Springs) and president of the Palm Springs Desert Resorts Restaurant Association, Juliana Manion Copley was part of the committee that got the event off the ground. "Last year we were really busy," Copley said.

Due to the event's success, the organizers decided to include restaurants from all over the Coachella Valley and extend the duration to nearly three weeks.

"It gives people a chance to try restaurants at both ends of the valley, which would have been harder if we'd tried to do it all in one week," Copley said.

With the hope that this year's event will be as good, if not better, than last year's, the organizing committee



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Efrain Guerrero of Palm Springs is meat chef at the Picanha Churrascaria Brazilian grill and bar in Cathedral City. Picanha will be one of the participants at the Palm Springs Desert Resorts Restaurant Week.

West valley dining

What: Palm Springs Desert Resorts Restaurant Week 2009 (west valley participants)

When: Sunday-June 9

Cost: \$24-\$36 per meal, includes choice of appetizer, entree and dessert; beverages, tax and gratuity not included.

Information: palmsspringsrestaurantweek.com

For a complete list of participating restaurants go to page D2.

is already thinking about next year.

"We'd like to maybe do a battle of Coachella Valley chefs to drum up more interest," Copley said.

"But it's not just events — we have great restaurants in the valley, this is a way for locals to discover what's here."

Palm Springs Desert Resorts Restaurant Week participating restaurants

Babe's Bar-B-Que & Brewhouse \$24, 71-800 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage, (760) 346-8738

Bangkok 5 Thai Cuisine \$36, 70-026 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage, (760) 770-9508; bangkok5.com

Bing Crosby's Restaurant \$36, 71743A Highway 111, Rancho Mirage, 760.674.5764; bingcrosbysrestaurant.com

Blue Coyote Grill \$24, 445 N. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs, (760) 327-1196; bluecoyote-grill.com

bluEmber At Rancho Las Palmas Resort \$36, 41000 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage, (760) 862-4581; dinebluember.com

Casino Restaurant At Two Bunch Palms \$36, 67-425 Two Bunch Palms Trail, Desert Hot Springs, 760.288.7808; twobunchpalms.com

Chop House Palm Springs \$36, 262 S. Palm Canyon, Palm Springs, (760) 320-4500; palmsspringschophouse.com

Circa 59 At The Riviera Resort & Spa \$36, 1600 N. Indian Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, (760) 778-6659; psriviera.com

Citron \$36, 415 S. Belardo Road, Palm Springs, (760) 318-3005; viceroypalmssprings.com

Copley's On Palm Canyon \$36, 621 N. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, (760) 327-9555; copleyspalmssprings.com

Devane's Italian Kitchen — Rancho Mirage \$24, 40101

Coming next week

Read about the second half of Restaurant Week, focusing on east valley dining, in next Wednesday's Food section.

Monterey Ave., Rancho Mirage, (760) 341-5330; devanesitaliankitchen.com

Dink's Restaurant & Ultra Lounge \$36, 2080 N. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, (760) 327-7676; dinksrestaurant.com

Europa Restaurant At The Villa Royale Inn \$36, 1620 S. Indian Trail, Palm Springs, (760) 327-2314; villaroyale.com

Jake's Ready-To-Eat \$24, 664 N. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, (760) 327-4400; jakesreadytoeat.com

Johannes Restaurant \$36, 196 S. Indian Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, (760) 778-0017; johannesrestaurants.com

Johnny Costa's Ristorante \$24, 440 S. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, (760) 325-4556; johnnycostaristorante.com

Kaiser Grill \$24, 205 S. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, (760) 323-1003; kaisergrill.com

King's Highway At The Ace Hotel & Swim Club \$24, 701 E. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, (760) 325-9900; acehotel.com/palmssprings

Las Casuelas Nuevas \$24, 70050 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage, (760) 328-8844; lascasuelasnuevas.com

Las Casuelas Terraza \$24, 222 S. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, (760) 325-2794; www.lascasuelas.com

Le Vallauris \$36, 385 W. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, (760) 325-5059; levallauris.com

LG's Prime Steakhouse Palm Springs \$36, 255 S. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, (760) 416-1779; lgsprimesteakhouse.com

Matchbox Vintage Pizza Bistro \$24, 155 S. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, (760) 778-6000; matchboxpalmssprings.com

Melvyn's Restaurant \$24, 200 W. Ramon Road, Palm Springs, (760) 325-2323; inglesideinn.com

Mister Parker's \$36, 4200 E. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, (760) 321-4629; misterparkers.com

Peaks Restaurant \$36, One Tramway, Palm Springs, (760) 325-4537; psaeerialtramway.com

Picanha Churrascaria \$24, 68-510 Highway 111, Cathedral City, (760) 328-1818; picanharestaurant.com

Pieros Acqua Piazza \$24, 71-800 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage, (760) 862-9800; pierosacquaapiazza.com

Purple Palm \$36, 572 N. Indian Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, (760) 969-1818; colonypalmshotel.com

Riccio's Steak & Seafood \$24, 495 N. Palm Canyon Drive,

Palm Springs, (760) 325-3111; ricciossteakandseafood.com

Sammy G's \$36, 265 S. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, (760) 320-8041

Shame On The Moon \$36, 69950 Frank Sinatra Drive, Rancho Mirage, (760) 324-5515; shameonthemoon.com

Spencer's Restaurant At The Mountain \$36, 701 West Baristo Road, Palm Springs, (760) 327-3446; spencersrestaurant.com

Steakhouse @ The Spa Resort Casino \$36, 401 E. Amado Road, Palm Springs, (760) 883-1060; sparesortcasino.com

Thai Smile Of Rancho Mirage \$24, 42-476 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage, (760) 341-6565; mythaismile.com

The Falls Palm Springs \$36, 155 S. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, (760) 416-8664; thefallsrestaurants.com

The Tropicale \$36, 330 E. Amado Road, Palm Springs, (760) 866-1952; tropicale.com

Trilussa Ristorante \$36, 68-718 Highway 111, Cathedral City, (760) 328-2300; trilussarestaurant.com

Wang's In The Desert \$24, 424 S. Indian Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, (760) 325-9264; wangsinthedesert.com

Zin American Bistro \$24, 198 S. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, (760) 322-6300; zinamericanbistro.com



MICHAEL SNYDER THE DESERT SUN

Circa 59 at the Riviera Resort and Spa will be offering wild salmon with a jalapeno pesto atop smoked cheddar mash during Restaurant Week as well as a hazelnut Kit-Kat with vanilla waffles for dessert.



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The Purple Palm Restaurant in Palm Springs will be featuring grilled yellowfin tuna with papardelle pasta and roasted peppers, plus a decadent strawberry shortcake for dessert.