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America's Taco Shop opening Scottsdale location

by **Carey Sweet** - Jul. 14, 2011 01:56 PM
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America's Taco Shop is sharing the love with Scottsdale. The enormously popular taqueria is expanding to a fourth location, debuting later this fall in Old Town. Currently, there are stores in downtown Phoenix's Coronado District, in Phoenix's Melrose District and near [Arizona State University](#) in Tempe. For lovers of simple succulent meats stuffed in fresh tortillas, it is great news.

The eatery's slogan promises that this is "the [home](#) of the greatest carne asada in the Valley," and customers are greeted with the thwack of a cleaver hitting a butcher block, as staffers chop steak for tacos, burritos, quesadillas, tortas, or a creation called a Vampiro. The new shop takes over a former house that most recently was an art studio at First Avenue and Goldwater Boulevard. Extensive renovations are being done, including adding a commercial kitchen. America Corrales first opened her first taco shop on Seventh Street south of Thomas Road in 2008, followed by a store on Seventh Avenue south of Camelback, then another on University Drive at Rural Road in Tempe.

The native of Culiacán, in the Sinaloa region of Mexico, emphasizes traditional recipes of her heritage (corn tortillas, please, and no pico de gallo, thank you). She and husband Terry Bortin send out specialty dishes like pastor, the succulent pork that is spit-roasted on an authentic Mexican vertical rotisserie. For the Scottsdale location, the menu and order-at-the-counter concept will be the same as the other shops, Bortin said.

That includes the Vampiro, which brings a grilled corn tortilla heaped with carne asada or pastor and topped in gooey, melted Monterey Jack cheese, guacamole, sweet caramelized onions, and crisp shredded lettuce. The main change will be the setting, which will be a bit more elaborate than the original's adobo and mustard-color shack ambience. A highlight is the backyard, brimming with trees, rose bushes and fountains, which Bortin is transforming into [patio](#) seating.

"America and I don't live far away, and I was riding my bike by the location," he said. "I knew right away I wanted it. It's such a great space, and it fits my vision so perfectly."

Details: America's Taco Shop, 2041 N. 7th St., Phoenix, 602-682-5627. 4447 N. 7th Ave., Phoenix, 602-515-0856; and 735 E. University Dr., Tempe, 480-751-6250. Coming soon: 7001 E. First Ave., Scottsdale. americastacoshop.net.

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