

## Dining Guide

### PHOENIX

#### America's Taco Shop

**MEXICAN**  
 2041 N. Seventh St.  
 602-682-5627, americastacoshop.net  
 You won't see many options on the menu. That's because it's all about the carne asada and flavorful beef at this quaint Mexican food joint. Choose the signature carne asada burrito, ceviche or flan. Don't miss the chips topped with homemade salsa. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Other locations: Tempe (480-751-6250) and Phoenix (602-515-0856). \$

#### Beckett's Table

**AMERICAN**  
 3717 E. Indian School Rd.  
 602-954-1700, beckettstable.com  
 Chef Justin Beckett draws raves with his seasonal American cooking and classic comfort food. Don't miss the creamy grits and spicy andouille sausage with mustard jus, wood-fired mussels with shallot-fennel broth, short ribs with mashed potatoes and lobster and boursin enchiladas with truffled leeks and guajillo chile sauce. Dinner Tu-Su. \$\$

#### Black Chile Mexican Grill

**MEXICAN**  
 2502 E. Camelback Rd.  
 602-955-5593, blackchile.com  
 This Biltmore Fashion Park restaurant serves up mouthwatering Mexican food with a contemporary American spin. Try the cotija grilled corn, the shrimp and corn cheese crisp, chicken enchiladas and anything with the fabulous flour tortillas. Or just sit on the wraparound patio sipping a jalapeño-tinged margarita. Lunch and dinner daily. \$\$-\$\$\$

#### Bluewater Grill

**SUSHI/SEAFOOD**  
 1720 E. Camelback Rd.  
 602-277-3474, bluewatergrill.com  
 Surf's up at this relaxed seafood restaurant with a daily-changing menu featuring more than 40 varieties of fresh seafood and shellfish annually. Check out the oyster bar, intimate patio, and the sushi bar. Fresh seasonal seafood is also sold by



**Chakra 4 Vegetarian Restaurant**

#### VEGETARIAN

4773 N. 20th St. (Town & Country Shopping Center) 602-283-1210, chakra4vegetarianrestaurant.com

This haven for health nuts is half store, half café and sells thousands of teas and herbs. The café offers organic vegetarian dishes and brews 11 flavors of iced chai tea each morning. Nibble on the nutty "rawvocado" dip with veggie sticks or the "kaleidoscope" salad, chock-full of kale and veggies. Sip on seasonal soups like magic bean or ginger red lentil. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Su-W, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Th-Sa. \$-\$\$

the pound for takeaway. Lunch and dinner daily; happy hour 3:30-6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to close. M-F, and noon to 5 p.m. Sa-Su. Retail market, 10 a.m. daily. \$\$-\$\$\$

#### Bobby-Q Great Steaks & Real BBQ

**AMERICAN**  
 8501 N. 27th Ave.  
 602-995-5982, bobbyq.net  
 Bob Sikora (of Bobby McGee's fame) has created a good-looking and comfortable steak and barbecue restaurant that's comfortably priced, too. Try the chicken quesadilla, the pulled pork, the smokehouse burger and the ribeye. Lunch and dinner daily. \$-\$\$

#### Bombay Spice Grill & Wine

**INDIAN**  
 10810 N. Tatum Blvd.  
 602-795-0020, bombayspice.com  
 Executive Chef Sunil Kumar uses olive oil instead of butter and dairy, and favors house-made hot sauces instead of chiles, giving a healthy but tasty spin to Indian cuisine. Don't miss the addictive chickpea ceviche. Entrées are versatile, featuring a "choose two" method from a variety of meats and veggies. Great 20-bottle wine list all sold for \$20. Lunch and dinner daily. Does not take reservations. \$\$

#### Capital Grille

**STEAK**  
 2502 E. Camelback Rd. (Biltmore Fashion Park)  
 602-952-8900, thecapitalgrille.com  
 It's power dining at this stylish corporate steakhouse, popular for its dry-aged steaks, award-winning wine list and professional service. Lunch M-F, dinner nightly. Other location: Scottsdale (480-348-1700). \$\$-\$\$\$

#### Carolina's Mexican Food

**MEXICAN**  
 1202 E. Mohave St.  
 602-252-1503, carolinasmex.com  
 By 11 a.m., this bare-bones south Phoenix stalwart is knee-deep in customers, lined up for homey, straightforward tacos, tamales, burritos and enchiladas. The smart ones take home a few packages of Carolina's huge and amazing tortillas, made fresh daily. Breakfast, lunch and dinner M-Sa. Other location: north Phoenix (602-275-8231). \$

#### District American Kitchen & Wine Bar

**AMERICAN**  
 320 N. Third St.  
 602-817-5400, districtrestaurant.com  
 Located in the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel, District modernizes classic American favorites like sloppy Joes, fried chicken and tomato soup. Similarly, the bar pours all-American spirits and an impressive list of homegrown microbrews. Stop by Thursday through Saturday nights for live music, ranging from indie/electro to jazz. Lunch and dinner daily. \$\$-\$\$\$

#### Eden's Grill

**MIDDLE EASTERN**  
 13843 N. Tatum Blvd.  
 602-996-5149, edensgrill.com  
 Housed in a strip mall, this small Middle Eastern restaurant is far prettier than you'd imagine, and the made-from-scratch food is wonderful. Try dolmeh, *baba ghanouj*, excellent kebabs, catfish you won't believe, and the best baklava in town. Lunch M-F, dinner M-Sa. \$-\$\$

#### Gallo Blanco

**MEXICAN**  
 401 W. Clarendon Ave. (Clarendon Hotel)  
 602-327-0880, galloblancocafe.com  
 The bright orange, red and green walls of this funky urban joint look as fresh as its zesty tomato salsa served atop the corn-tortilla tacos. Try seasoned street tacos, fresh ceviche and mouthwatering carne asada. Chef/co-owner Doug Robson uses ingredients not typically found in Mexican cuisine, like soy sauce or quince paste to add bold, unusual flavors to traditional dishes. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. \$

#### Havana Café

**CUBAN**  
 4225 E. Camelback Rd.  
 602-952-1991, havanacafe-az.com  
 Here's a tiny but contemporary-looking Cuban restaurant offering mojitos and great appetizers, as well as plenty of traditional entrées. Thumbs-up for the *papa rellena*, shrimp pancakes, *pastelitos* and ceviche. Lunch M-Sa, dinner nightly. Other location: Scottsdale (480-991-1496). \$\$

