

105 Of Our Favorite Things!

**EXCLUSIVE!** The real story behind the Serial Shooter killing spree that shocked the Valley p. 116

# PHOENIX

## *the City's Best*

bowling alley, BYOB, pasta place, pet shop, sports stars, swimwear, tea party, truffles, cookie, fried chicken, farmers' market, wine bar, bacon fix, boutique, bookstore, breakfast spots, shopping spree... *and more!*



September 2009

phoenixmag.com \$3.95

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# Best of the Valley

***Featuring 105*** of our favorite things, including the best new farmers' market, one viciously good cookie, a sweet use for bacon, a few hangouts for bookworms and where to hone your kung fu kick... plus our *Worst of the Valley* picks!

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## Best Caesar Salad J&G Steakhouse

There may be Caesar salads in town that are gutsier, but certainly none that are as carefully and artfully constructed. Done tableside with a minimum of theatrics, J&G's staff gently folds lemony dressing into teeny baby romaine leaves, tops it with petite croutons and whisper-thin slivers of real Parmigiano-Reggiano and tosses it together with a grinding of fresh pepper. 6000 E. Camelback Road (The Phoenician), Scottsdale, 480-214-8000, [jgsteakhousescottsdale.com](http://jgsteakhousescottsdale.com)

## Best Way to Perk up a Meal Bombay Spice Sauces

Bombay's Americanized, healthier versions of Indian classics are simply delicious and made even more so by the prettily presented quartet of accompanying sauces. Lively mint and tangy cucumber-dotted yogurt are served along with assertive, complex hot sauce and, for sweet-and-sour lovers, musky tamarind. Dollop them on crisp chapatti bread or chubby little lamb chops and dig in. 10810 N. Tatum Blvd., Phoenix, 602-795-0020, [bombayspice.com](http://bombayspice.com)

## Best Mussels Outside of Brussels

### Metro Brasserie

Moules and frites are iconically Belgian, but they translate surprisingly well. Witness these plump, sweet bivalves piled high in lambent wine, butter, shallot and thyme broth. They're served in the traditional cast-iron boat along with crisp, double-fried potato sticks in a paper cone with herbed aioli. Ask for crusty bread to sop up the last delicious drops of sauce. 7114 E. Stetson Drive, Ste. 105, Scottsdale, 480-994-3663, [metrosouthbridge.com](http://metrosouthbridge.com)

## Best Place for a Sunset Drink

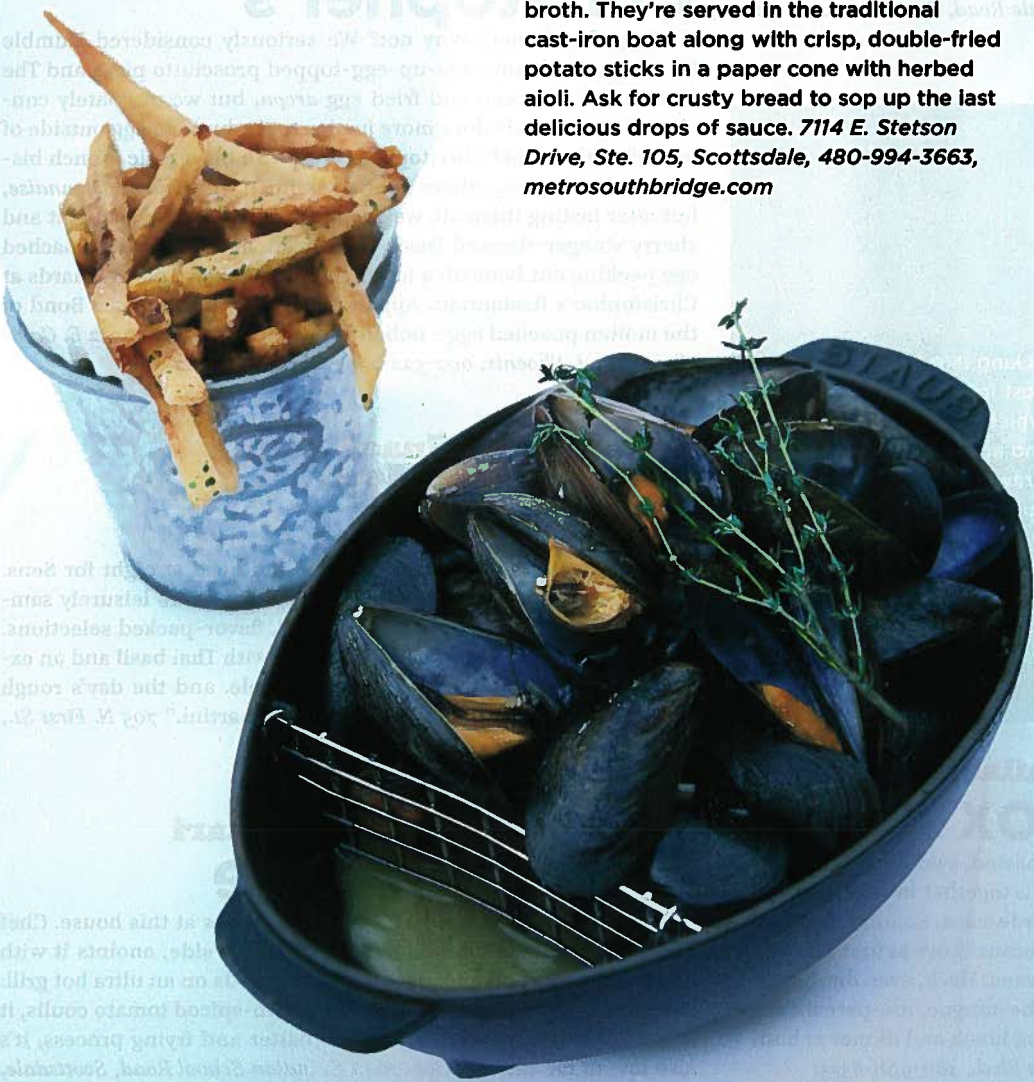
### Kasbah Pool Bar & Grill

The InterContinental Montecucia Resort & Spa is fit for a king (or a president: Obama stayed there in February), but the hoi polloi can bask in luxury at its Kasbah Pool Bar & Grill. After a grueling day at the spa or for a pre-dinner drink, lounge in the plush patio chairs and watch as daylight fades against Camelback Mountain. The bar usually closes an hour after sunset, except on Fridays beginning in September for live jazz. 4949 E. Lincoln Drive, Scottsdale, 480-627-3200, [icmontecucia.com](http://icmontecucia.com)

## Best Place for a Drink After Dark

### Upstairs at Estate House

With apologies to the Drifters, when this old world starts getting you down, climb way up to the top of the stairs and have a cocktail - or wine and cheese - at Upstairs at the Estate House. It's the antidote to the frenetic Scottsdale club scene, with a laidback, inviting atmosphere and mellow live music. For date night or a low-key get-together with friends, it's peaceful as can be. 7134 E. Stetson Drive, Ste. 200, Scottsdale, 480-970-4099, [estatehouseaz.com](http://estatehouseaz.com)



# Dining Guide

## **Mastro's Ocean Club Fish House**

**SEAFOOD** • 15045 N. Kierland Blvd. (Kierland Commons), 480-443-8555. Mullioned windows and fossilized limestone walls give this sybaritic seafood restaurant an elegant ambience that locals love. The dimly lit lounge offers drinks and live entertainment, while the dining room zeroes in on ultra-fresh (if starkly presented) fish and generously portioned à la carte sides. Dinner nightly. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

## **Mastro's Steakhouse**

**STEAK** • 8852 E. Pinnacle Peak Rd., 480-585-9500, mastrorestaurants.com. Mastro's Steakhouse serves sizzling hand-cut USDA Prime steaks and chops in an equally sizzling atmosphere. Pair family-style sides, like wasabi mashed potatoes or Gorgonzola macaroni and cheese, with these generous cuts. The lounge features live piano music and dancing seven nights a week. Dinner daily. \$\$\$

## **Medizona**

**SOUTHWESTERN** • 7217 E. Fourth Ave., 480-947-9500, medizonarestaurant.com. A small, charming restaurant offering Mediterranean-inspired Southwestern cuisine. Don't miss the savory rabbit baklava. Dinner nightly. \$\$\$

## **The Melting Pot**

**AMERICAN** • 8320 N. Hayden Rd., 480-607-1799, themeltingpot.com. Dark and intimate, this vaguely European-looking fondue place makes a great date restaurant. And if all goes well, there's a sensual finale involving cake, fruit and warm chocolate. Dinner nightly. \$\$\$. Other location: Ahwatukee (480-704-9206).

## **Metro Brasserie & Bar**

**FRENCH COUNTRY** • 7114 E. Stetson Dr., Ste. 105 (SouthBridge), 480-994-3663, metrosouthbridge.com. Occupying the former Foodbar digs in Old Town's SouthBridge development, Metro Brasserie brings a French-inspired breakfast/lunch/dinner menu with touches of American Southern cooking. Think *croque monsieurs*, *crepes de jour*, *grilled andouille* and *beignets*. Select menu items are available to go as well. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. \$\$-\$\$\$

## **The Mission**

**LATIN** • 3815 N. Brown Ave., 480-636-5005, the-missionaz.com. This swanky Latin-style lounge serves up mouth-watering meals and exotic cocktails, all in a quaint adobe-style setting. Start with the tableside guacamole or pork shoulder tacos. Sip on a pineapple ginger mojito while savoring the short rib steak. Save room for the fried bananas. Lunch and dinner daily. \$\$-\$\$\$

## **Nick's**

**ITALIAN** • 13910 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd., 480-314-9445, nicks-italian.com. This friendly north Scottsdale Italian spot serves up 25 homemade pasta dishes and pizzas, as well as standbys such as chicken, veal, seafood and tiramisu. All locations serve alcohol. Lunch M-F, dinner nightly. \$\$\$. Other locations: Scottsdale (480-473-1972), north Scottsdale (480-515-0096) and Paradise Valley (602-953-1110).

## **North**

**ITALIAN** • 15024 N. Scottsdale Rd. (Kierland Commons), 480-948-2055, foxrc.com/north.html. Hungry for a snug New York loft setting, rustic Italian food given a modern spin and a great glass of wine? Go North, young man. And

when you get there, try the whole roasted bass with Tuscan kale or the prosciutto and melon pizza. Lunch and dinner daily. \$\$\$. Other location: Glendale (623-537-4500).

## **Old Town Tortilla Factory**

**SOUTHWESTERN** • 6910 E. Main St., 480-945-4567, oldtowntortillafactory.com. There's no better place to be than Old Town's citrus-tree-shaded patio. Indoor dining is just as nice, owing to the charms of this adobe cottage and the innovative cuisine, which blends Mexican and Native American influences. Dinner nightly. \$\$\$

## **Olive & Ivy**

### **Restaurant & Marketplace**

**CALIFORNIA/MEDITERRANEAN** • 7135 E. Camelback Rd., Ste. 195, 480-751-2200, foxrc.com/olive\_ivy.html. Brought to you by Fox Restaurant Concepts, this Testani-designed hot spot has universal appeal, thanks to its gourmet bakery, high-end retail market, grab 'n' go café, luxurious patio (one of the best in town), great wine selection and airy, open restaurant featuring California-Mediterranean cuisine. Flatbreads and small plates offer plenty of opportunity for snacking. Lunch and dinner daily. \$-\$\$\$

## **Oregano's Pizza Bistro**

**PIZZA** • 3622 N. Scottsdale Rd., 480-970-1860, oreganos.com. It's worth waiting for a table at these insanely popular spots. People come for the wings, unusual pastas and Chicago-style pizzas - both thin-crust and stuffed. Lunch and dinner daily. \$\$\$. Other locations: Tempe (480-858-0501), Phoenix (602-241-0707), north Scottsdale (480-348-0500), Mesa (480-962-0049) and Gilbert (480-882-9336).

## **Pepin**

**SPANISH** • 7363 E. Scottsdale Mall, 480-990-9026, pepinrestaurant.com. Drop by this softly lit Spanish café for tapas and traditional Spanish entrées. Flamenco dancers keep weekend nights lively and crowded. Lunch Tu-Sa, dinner Tu-Su. \$\$\$

## **Pink Pony Steak House**

**STEAK** • 3831 N. Scottsdale Rd., 480-945-6697. In the spring, this Old Town institution is a hangout for Major League Baseball players. Come for steak, prime rib and maybe a little beefcake. Lunch M-F, dinner nightly. \$\$\$

## **Pinnacle Peak Patio**

**STEAK** • 10426 E. Jomax Rd., 480-585-1599, pppatio.com. This sprawling cowboy steakhouse (which seats over 2,500) serves up mesquite-grilled beef, cowboy beans, live country music and Old West atmosphere in a kitschy but fun setting. In the spring, the patio is the place to be. Lunch Su, dinner nightly. Reservations required for large groups. \$\$

## **Prado**

**SPANISH-INSPIRED** • 4949 E. Lincoln Dr., Paradise Valley (InterContinental Montelucia Resort & Spa), 480-627-3004, pradolife.com. The signature restaurant at the lavish InterContinental Montelucia in Paradise Valley promises "wood-fired grilling with a Spanish accent." According to its Website, it features a "rustic and authentic Andalusian cooking method where the freshest seafood, meats and produce are cooked on a grill over a wood-burning fire." Prado also boasts an extensive wine selection with offerings from King Ferdinand's private wine collection. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. \$\$\$