

1991 WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION

Restaurant Guide



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TUCSON, ARIZONA

Compiled by Tappan King
and Beth Meacham

Prepared by Lea Schultz
with assistance from Emerald Isle Graphics

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Pricing guide: Average dinner for one, including tax and tips, excluding drinks:
 (\$) = Under \$10, (\$\$) = \$11–\$20, (\$\$\$) = \$21–\$30, (\$\$\$\$) = Over \$30.

(*) indicates one of the best restaurants of its kind in Tucson. Prices and hours subject to change. An alphabetical listing of restaurants, and an index by category is provided in the back of the guide.

Although Tucson is not a large city (population about 500,000), it boasts a surprisingly large number of good restaurants. Specialties here are Sonoran Mexican (see below), ranch-style "cowboy food," fresh seafood (Tucson is less than 200 miles from the Sea of Cortez), and the extremely trendy "New Southwestern" which blends these styles with Native American elements and nouvelle cuisine.

Dress is usually extremely casual. In family restaurants, shorts and t-shirts are usually acceptable, even for dinner. Even in the fanciest restaurants, ties are optional for gentlemen, though you'll probably want to wear a jacket. (At one restaurant, Pinnacle Peak, they'll cut your tie off with a pair of scissors!)

Nearly all Tucson restaurants have large non-smoking sections (in fact, it's often harder to find tables in the smoking section). Since Tucson has a lot of retirees and health-conscious citizens, many restaurants make a point of offering low-fat, low-salt, and low-calorie meals. (Look for the little "hearts" on the menus.) Tucson is also very well equipped with facilities for the handicapped.

Arizona state sales tax is five percent; within the city of Tucson, the total is seven percent. Except as noted, most restaurants take all major credit cards, and many will also accept out-of-state checks with proper identification. If the listing says "reservations recommended," it's best to call ahead at least four hours before dining.

GETTING AROUND

As you've probably already figured out, Tucson is a "car town." While there are a lot of excellent restaurants in the city, you'll need a car (or reasonable facsimile) to get to most of them. Luckily, Tucson has wide, well-designed streets, and a fairly simple square grid with major avenues at one mile intervals. Most Tucson streets have the same numbering system. For example, the 5500 blocks of all east-west streets start at Craycroft Avenue. Even numbers are usually (but not always!) on the south and east sides of streets. Don't worry if you overshoot your destination. Tucson's convenient U-turn lanes make it easy to turn around and come back on the correct side of the street.

With one exception (Mexican restaurants, which get their own section), this guide is organized by area, in order by increasing distance from the Doubletree. We've mentioned a few of the noteworthy attractions near several of the restaurants listed. And while all of the restaurants we've included have food that ranges from good to excellent, some of them are worth visiting as much for their surroundings as for their food.

WALKING DISTANCE

Unfortunately, the Doubletree Hotel is somewhat isolated from the rest of Tucson if you don't have a car. However, there are two high quality eating establishments right here in the hotel:

[#1] THE CACTUS ROSE (\$\$) specializes in Western and Southwestern dishes with a continental touch. Food is excellent, if a bit pricey for hotel fare. The salad bar is very good, and there will be a champagne brunch on Sunday. Reservations are recommended during the convention for both lunch and dinner. Doubletree Hotel, 445 S. Alvernon. Sun–Thurs 6:30 am–9:30 pm, Fri–Sat to 10:30 pm. 881-4200

[#2] THE JAVELINA CANTINA (\$\$) features home-grown entertainment in a convivial setting. The ambiance is postmodern Pancho Villa. (A javelina is a Southwestern cousin to the wild boar.) Music ranges from country-rock to fifties doo-wop, and the bar food is surprisingly good. Doubletree Hotel, 445 S. Alvernon. Daily 11 am–1 am 881-4200

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There's also a good restaurant at **[#3] THE LODGE IN THE DESERT** (\$\$) about a half mile north of the Doubletree. Designed to resemble a Mexican hacienda, this convention overflow hotel features hearty fare at reasonable prices. Reservations are recommended for parties of more than six people. 306 N. Alvernon. Lunch 11 am–1 pm, dinner 5:30 pm–9:30 pm. 325-3366

DELIVERY

[#4] ROUND TABLE PIZZA (\$) at El Con Mall, 3601 E. Broadway delivers to the Doubletree Hotel. Mon–Thurs 11 am–10 pm, Fri & Sat 11 am–11 pm, Sunday 12 noon–10 pm. 326-6091

[#5] DOMINOS (\$) Sun–Thurs 11 am–10 pm, Fri & Sat 11 am–2 am Dominos has limited delivery areas, so each of the convention hotels is serviced by a different location. For delivery to the Doubletree, call 881-8700; for the Lodge in the Desert, call 795-1730; and for Domino's delivery to the Viscount suites, call 296-2333.

[#6] THE HIDDEN VALLEY INN (\$) 4825 N. Sabino Canyon Road has a delivery service. Ordering hours are Mon–Fri 10 am–9 pm, Sat 12 noon–9 pm, Sun 11 am–9 pm. Delivery hours are Mon–Fri 3 pm–9 pm, Sat & Sun 2 pm–9 pm.. Specialties are baked and barbecued chicken, and barbecued ribs. You can also "special order" various entrees such as lasagne, meatloaf, ham steak, or enchiladas. All special orders must be placed before 3 pm for delivery after 5 pm..

NEARBY (2–3 miles)

Basic eating (\$)

For those seeking cheap food nearby, the dining room of **[#7] THE BEST WESTERN AZTEC INN** a half mile north of the Doubletree has an inexpensive fixed-price salad bar and hot buffet that is wholesome but not fancy. 102 N. Alvernon. Daily 6 am–10 pm. 795-0330. (Don't be fooled by the LUNT AVENUE MARBLE CLUB, across from the Aztec Inn. It's out of business!)

The major convention overflow hotel, the VISCOUNT SUITE, has high quality, moderately priced buffets **[#8]** for breakfast and lunch as well as **[#9]** in-house pizza delivery and more formal dining (steaks and such) in the **[#10] OXFORD**

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CLUB, Mon – Fri, 5 pm – 9 pm, Sat & Sun 6 pm – 10 pm. There's also a bar and grill, **[#11] WILBUR'S**, offering drinks and appetizers from 11 am to 11 pm. Go north one half mile on Alvernon, then east (right) on Broadway just over a mile. You'll see the hotel on the north side of the street, just east of Swan Road. 4855 E. Broadway. 745-6500

There are also a number of familiar franchise restaurants within a two-mile radius (ten minute drive) of the Doubletree. Make a left (east) off of Alvernon onto 22nd Street about a half mile south of the hotel, and you'll see a large shopping center on your right containing a **[#12] PETER PIPER PIZZA**, a **[#13] CARL'S JR**, a **[#14] LONG JOHN SILVER**, and a **[#15] JACK IN THE BOX**, as well as a family restaurant called **[#16] JOHNNIE'S** and a tavern called **[#17] THIRTY-SOMETHING**. That mall also contains a large supermarket (**[#18] FRY'S**) and a **[#19] WALGREEN'S** pharmacy. There's also a **[#20] BURGER KING** and an all-you-can-eat buffet, **[#21] ST. GEORGE'S**, across the street.

If you go north a half mile on Alvernon, and make a right (east) on Broadway, you'll find several more name-brand establishments, including another **[#22] JACK IN THE BOX**, a **[#23] SIZZLER** (great salad bar!), a **[#24] BASKIN ROBBINS**, and something audaciously named **[#25] NEW YORK PIZZA**.

For do-it-yourselfers, we recommend **[#26] REAY'S RANCH MARKET**, Tucson's best natural foods grocery store. Here you'll find not only organically grown produce and chemical-free meat, but a wide assortment of healthy foods, spices, cosmetics, and sundries. There's also a great salad bar and bakery, as well as a small luncheonette if you get the munchies while shopping. Go north a mile and a half on Alvernon, make a left onto Speedway, and continue about three quarters of a mile until you'll see the EL RANCHO CENTER on your left. 3360 E. Speedway. 795-9844

Across from Reay's in the El Rancho Center, you'll find **[#27] THE PRESIDIO GRILL** (\$\$), a pleasant, casual hangout with a good wine list, and a very good menu that mixes Southwestern food with fish and pasta. 3352 E. Speedway. Open daily from 11 am–10 pm. (Friday and Saturday till midnight!), with a Sunday brunch from 8 am to 2 pm. 327-4667

There is also a good Korean restaurant nearby, **[#28] KOREAN HOUSE** (\$\$), one

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block east of Alvernon on Speedway, offering authentic Korean cuisine, and your choice of floor-mat or Western style seating. 4030 E. Speedway. Mon–Sat 11 am–10:30 pm, Sun 5 pm–9:30 pm. 325-4377

[#29] JACK'S ORIGINAL BARBECUE (\$) 5250 E. 22nd. Mon–Sat 11 am–8 pm, Sun 12 noon–8 pm. 750-1280. Informal dining with some open air seating. Jack's serves hot links, ribs, beef, ham, peach cobbler and sweet potato pie. Go south on Alvernon, turn left on 22nd. Jack's is on the right-hand side of the road between Swan and Craycroft.

CENTRAL (3–4 miles)

[#30] OLD PEKING (\$\$) 2522 E. Speedway. Mon–Thurs 11:30 am–9:30 pm, Fri–Sat 11:30 am–10:00 pm, Sun noon–9:30 pm. 795-9811 One of Tucson's better Chinese restaurants; specialties include Peking duck, and the "Last Empress Pork Steak." Pleasant decor, excellent service. Go north a mile and a half on Alvernon to Speedway, then west (left) on Speedway for a little more than a mile, about two blocks past Country Club Road.

(*) **[#31] THE BLUE WILLOW** (\$\$) 2616 N. Campbell Ave. Mon–Thurs 7 am–11 pm, Fri 7 am–midnight, Sat 8 am–midnight, Sun 8 am–11 pm. 795-8736 One of Tucson's most congenial cafes, especially for brunch or lunch, with a pleasant garden patio, as well as a card shop and gallery. Go north two and a half miles on Alvernon to Grant Road, west (left) on Grant two miles to Campbell Avenue, then north (right) about two blocks on Campbell. You'll see it on the right side of the road.

[#70] CASA MOLINA DEL NORTE #1 (\$\$) 3001 N. Campbell. (See under MEXICAN)

[#32] PAINTED DESERT (\$\$) 3055 N. Campbell Ave. Mon–Fri 11:30 am–3 pm, nightly 5:30 pm–10:00 pm. 795-8440 A pleasant indoor-outdoor restaurant with well-prepared light fare, coffees, and deserts. Great for lunch. Go north two and a half miles on Alvernon to Grant Road, west (left) on Grant two miles to Campbell Avenue, then north (right) about eight blocks on Campbell. (If you reach Ft. Lowell Road, you've gone too far.)

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(*) **#[33] LE RENDEZ-VOUS** (\$\$\$) 3844 E. Ft. Lowell Rd. 323-7373 Genuine French haute cuisine, formal atmosphere, good wine list. Reservations recommended. Go north three and a half miles on Alvernon to Ft. Lowell Road, then west (left) one block on Ft. Lowell.

#[80] TIA ELENA (\$\$) 3402 E. Grant. (See under MEXICAN)

#[71] CASA MOLINA DEL NORTE #2 (\$\$) 4240 E. Grant (See under MEXICAN)

#[34] THE RANCHER'S CLUB (\$\$\$) 5151 E. Grant Road in Hotel Park Tucson, Mon-Fri 11:30 am-2 pm, Mon-Sat 5:30 am-10 pm. 797-2624 This well-designed hotel restaurant is casual, with a varied menu ranging from basic cuts of meat to interesting Southwestern appetizers. Reservations recommended. Go north two and a half miles on Alvernon to Grant Road, then east (right) one and a half miles to the Hotel Park Tucson resort complex, on the north side of the road.

#[72] EL MOLINITO (\$) 5380 E. 22nd St. (See under MEXICAN)

#[78] LA PARILLA SUIZA (\$\$) 5602 E. Speedway. (See under MEXICAN)

#[35] PALOMINO (\$\$\$) 2959 N. Swan. Mon - Sat 4:30 pm to 10 pm. Closed Sunday. 795-5561 Continental style formal dining with a Greek influence. Excellent menu, good wine list. One of Tucson's classier eating establishments. Go two and a half miles north on Alvernon to Grant Road, east (right) one mile to Swan Road, then north (left) about five blocks on Swan.

#[77] EL MEZON DEL COBRE (\$\$) 2960 N. First Ave (See under MEXICAN)

NORTH (4-12 miles)

(*) **#[36] CAFE TERRA COTTA** (\$\$) 4310 N. Campbell Ave. Daily 11 am - 10 pm, Fri & Sat to 11 pm. 577-8100. This cozy restaurant has gained a well-deserved reputation for its Southwestern-influenced dishes, sampler portions, and delicious deserts. Go north two and a half miles on Alvernon to Grant Road, west (left) on Grant two miles to Campbell Avenue, then north (right) two and a half miles on Campbell to St. Philip's Plaza.

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(*) **#[37] DANIEL'S (\$\$\$)** 4340 N. Campbell Mon–Sat 11 am–4 pm, daily 4 pm–9 pm. 742-3200 One of Tucson's most fashionable restaurants with elegant Italian and continental fare, and a superior beer and wine list with selected single malt scotches. Reservations recommended. Go north two and a half miles on Alvernon to Grant Road, west (left) on Grant two miles to Campbell Avenue, then north (right) two and a half miles on Campbell to St. Philip's Plaza.

#[79] LA PLACITA (\$\$) 2950 N. Swan Rd. (See under MEXICAN)

#[38] BISTRO BAR BOCCATA (\$\$) 5605 E. River Road. Daily 5 pm – 9 pm, Fri & Sat to 10 pm, Sunday brunch from from 10 am to 2:30 pm, Fri lunch from 11 am – 2:30 pm. 577-9309. A north Italian-style bistro with some variations including inventive pastas. Go north two and a half miles on Alvernon to Grant Road, east (right) on Grant two miles to Craycroft Road, then north (left) two miles to River Road.

THE WESTIN LA PALOMA RESORT, at 3800 Sunrise Drive, has two excellent restaurants, each with great views of the area. At the (*) **#[39] DESERT GARDEN (\$\$)** between five and ten pm any day but Sunday, you can enjoy a full tapas bar accompanied by live music. Specialties include snails in garlic butter, fried artichoke hearts, and cold mixed seafood in a lemon marinade. Daily 6:30 am–10 pm. 742-6000 Nearby is (*) **#[40] LA VILLA (\$\$)**, a casual but elegant restaurant serving fresh seafood. Daily, 5 pm – 10:30 pm. 577-5806. Reservations are recommended for both restaurants. Go north one half mile to Broadway, east (right) one mile to Swan Road, north (left) on Swan four miles to Sunrise, then left on Sunrise just over a mile to Palomita Road. The entrance to the Westin La Paloma resort will be on your right.

(*) **#[41] VENTANA (\$\$\$\$)** at Loews Ventana Canyon Resort 7000 N. Resort Drive, off Kolb. Nightly 6 pm –10:30 pm. 299-2020 One of Tucson's fanciest restaurants, with breathtaking views, superb service, innovative Continental cuisine with a Southwestern touch, and a high-priced a la carte menu. Great for entertaining, though reservations are recommended.

The resort is a bit tricky to find, but it's well worth the trip if you have a little extra time. Allow about an hour to get there from the Doubletree. Go two and a half miles north on Alvernon to Grant Road, east (right) on Grant two miles to Craycroft

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Road, north (left) four miles to Sunrise Drive, east (right) about two miles to Kolb Road, then north (left) on Kolb. The entrance to Loews Ventana Canyon Resort will be on your right, about three quarters of a mile past Sunrise Drive.

[#75] CLUB TWENTY-ONE (\$\$) 2920 N. Oracle. (See under MEXICAN)

(*) **[#42] ENCORE MED** (\$\$\$\$) 5931 N. Oracle. Mon–Sat 11 am–2 pm, Mon–Thurs 5:30–10:30, Fri & Sat to 11:30. 888-1130 This elegant restaurant offers excellent Continental and Mediterranean cuisine in a formal, Old World atmosphere. Reservations recommended. Allow about an hour to get there from the Doubletree. Go two and a half miles north on Alvernon to Grant, about four miles west (left) on Grant to Oracle, then four and a half miles north on Oracle, past the Tucson Mall and Galleria, about a half mile south of Orange Grove Road.

(*) **[#43] TOHONO CHUL TEA ROOM** (\$) 7366 N. Paseo Del Norte. Daily 8 am–5 pm. 797-1711 If you have a morning or afternoon free, you might want to make a pilgrimage to Tucson's most unusual tea room. It's located about an hour north of the Doubletree, in a privately owned nature reserve, Tohono Chul Park. The Tea Room is situated in an a converted private home, and offers light meals, full teas, terrific homemade deserts, and an unparalleled view of the desert. There's also an art gallery in the park. Reservations recommended.

Go north two and a half miles on Alvernon to Grant Road, west (left) on Grant four miles to Oracle, north (right) seven miles to Ina Road, then west (left) two blocks to Paseo Del Norte. The entrance will be on your right. There's also a book shop in the park area, called The Haunted Bookstore, one block before the entrance to the park at 7211 Northern Avenue. (297-4843)

EAST (2–4 miles)

Tucson has its own "curry belt." There are three good Indian restaurants a couple of miles east of the Doubletree. All serve vegetarian dishes.

[#44] MAHARAJA (\$\$) 5305 E. Speedway. Daily 11 am–2:30 pm, 5 pm–10 pm. 326-9911 A full range of Indian dishes, both spicy and mild. Go north on Alvernon one and a half blocks to Speedway, then east (right) two miles. It will be on the north side of Speedway, one block west of Craycroft Road.

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[#45] SITAR (\$\$) 6061 E. Broadway. Daily 11:30–2:30 pm, 5:30 pm–10 pm. 750-1977. Specialties are Tandoori chicken and vegetarian dishes. Go one half block north on Alvernon to Broadway, then east (right) on Broadway about two and a half miles.

(*) **[#46] NEW DELHI PALACE** (\$\$) 6751 E. Broadway. Daily 11:30 am–2:30 pm, 5 pm–10 pm. 296-8585 Voted Tucson's best Indian restaurant in two newspaper reader polls. Go one half block north on Alvernon to Broadway, then east (right) on Broadway about three and a half miles. You'll spot it on the north side of Broadway, next to the Western Warehouse about four blocks east of Wilmot Road.

Just for Stephen K. Zoltan Brust, we must also note **[#47] BIT OF BUDAPEST** (\$\$) 5754 E. 22nd Street. Tues–Sat 11 am–9:30. Sun noon 9 pm 571-9070 Although we haven't visited it ourselves, the word is it's an informal Hungarian restaurant with traditional specialties, including a large list of Hungarian wines!! Go south one half mile on Alvernon to 22nd Street, then east (left) on 22nd a little over two miles. You'll see it on the south side of the street, about three blocks past Craycroft Road.

(*) **[#48] THE GOOD EARTH** (\$\$) 6366 E. Broadway at Wilmot. Sun 9 am–10 pm, Mon–Thurs 7 am–10 pm, Fri & Sat 7 am–11 pm. 745-6600 You'll find sumptuous healthful fare, including vegetarian dishes, supplemented by indoor plants and unusual architecture, at this locally owned version of the popular Los Angeles health food restaurant. The Good Earth doesn't take plastic (credit cards) but out of state checks are probably okay with proper ID. Go north one half mile on Alvernon to Broadway, then east (right) on Broadway three miles to Wilmot. You'll find The Good Earth just across Wilmot on the south side of the street in the El Mercado Plaza, along with a number of interesting shops, including a maker of truly fine hand-dipped chocolate truffles.

[#69] CASA MOLINA (\$\$) 6225 E. Speedway. (See under MEXICAN)

FARTHER EAST (7–8 miles)

Farther east, out Tanque Verde Road toward the Catalina Mountains, you'll find a cluster of several of Tucson's most interesting restaurants. To reach Tanque Verde, go north one half mile on Alvernon to Broadway, east (right) on Broadway four

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miles to Wilmot, then north (left) on Wilmot about two and a half miles. Wilmot will curve right and turn into Tanque Verde at the intersection with Grant Road. You'll know you're in the right place when you start seeing strangely surreal objects like Disneyesque castles and giant hillbillies in bathtubs.

(*) **#[49] THE TUCSON CORK** (\$\$\$) 6320 E. Tanque Verde. Mon–Thurs 5 pm–10:30 pm, Fri & Sat to 11 pm, Sun 5 pm–10 pm. 296-1631 A Tucson institution for nearly three decades, featuring truly excellent prime rib and steaks (including buffalo), and an excellent wine list. The informal Spanish-style setting is excellent for conversation. One of the few upscale restaurants to feature a children's menu. (The menu for adults is presented on a stainless steel meat cleaver!) Follow the directions above to reach Tanque Verde Road. You'll see a sign for the restaurant on the right side of the road just past El Dorado medical center, about a half mile north of Speedway. Reservations recommended.

#[50] SOLARIUM (\$\$) 6444 E. Tanque Verde. Daily for dinner from 5:30 pm till after midnight, Mon–Fri 11 am–2:30 pm for lunch. 886-8186. This indoor-outdoor restaurant is worth the visit for its Sixties-style handbuilt architecture alone — a three-story folly with a many-spoked roof, stained glass windows, a loft-bar with live music, and a front door which is a work of art in its own right. The food is simple but tasty, with an emphasis on seafood. Follow the directions above to reach Tanque Verde Road, then continue east about a quarter mile. To locate the Solarium, keep your eyes open for an eating and drinking establishment called Bobbie McGee's (fun ambience, so-so food) with a man in a bathtub on the roof(!) Just before you reach it, you'll see the stained-glass sign marking the Solarium's driveway on your right.

#[51] SAKURA (\$\$) 6534 E. Tanque Verde. Mon–Fri 11 am–2 pm, Mon–Thurs 5 pm–9 pm, Fri–Sat 5 pm–11 pm, Sun 5 pm–10 pm. 298-7777 Tucson's newest Japanese restaurant, with an exciting teppan table, and an excellent sushi bar. Take Broadway and Wilmot to the intersection of Tanque Verde and Grant Road, then continue about a half mile further past a Disneyesque miniature golf course. Sakura is located in a modern Japanese-style building in a shopping center across from Pinnacle Peak. If you see a red double-decker bus (!) you've gone too far.

#[52] PINNACLE PEAK (\$\$) 6541 E. Tanque Verde. Daily 5 pm–10 pm. 296-0911 The centerpiece of a wonderfully hokey "Wild West" shopping area known as "Trail

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Dust Town." Here you can get a decent steak with a side of beans for a reasonable price, and window shop for Western trinkets. Recommended for families with small children. Follow the directions above to the intersection of Tanque Verde and Grant Road, then continue about a half mile further until you see a covered wagon perched atop a pair of boulders (!) on your left.

(*) **[#53] DAKOTA CAFE** (\$\$) 6541 E. Tanque Verde. Mon–Thurs 11 am–9 pm Fri–Sat 11 am–10 pm. 298-7188 As if "Trail Dust Town" weren't strange enough (see previous listing), it also contains a perfect duplicate of a New York SoHo restaurant cafe placed inside a brand new "old" warehouse. The food is nouvelle, and the service is amazingly authentic. Try the crab quesadillas. See directions for Pinnacle Peak, above.

(*) **[#54] JEROME'S** (\$\$\$) 6958 E. Tanque Verde. Tues–Thurs 5 pm–10 pm, Fri & Sat to 10:30 pm Lunch 11 am – 2 pm Tues – Fri, and Sunday for brunch. 721-0311, Jerome's is elegant but casual, with the emphasis on seafood with a Cajun touch. Dinners are excellent, if a bit pricey, and the Sunday champagne brunch features recorded New Orleans style jazz. Follow the directions above to the intersection of Tanque Verde and Grant Road, then continue about a half a mile until you see a shopping center with two-story Santa Fe style building on your right, just before Sabino Canyon Road.

(*) **[#55] THE TACK ROOM** (\$\$\$\$) 2800 Sabino Canyon Drive. Tues – Sun, 6 pm – 9 pm. Closed Mondays. 722-2800. One of the few true five-star restaurants in North America, in a Territorial-style converted house, complete with massive fireplace. If you don't already have reservations, you probably won't get in, since The Tack Room tends to fill up a week or more in advance. Which is a shame, for you won't find better dining anywhere in Tucson. However, it's worth trying near dinner time, in case there have been cancellations, especially for parties of four or fewer. The menu is a blend of Western and Southwestern style and haute cuisine, with a brash touch of nouvelle tomfoolery thrown in just for fun. And the waiters are extremely friendly.

To reach The Tack Room, follow the directions above to the intersection of Tanque Verde and Grant road, continue on Tanque Verde about a half mile to Sabino Canyon road, then turn left (north) on Sabino Canyon, and follow it north about half a mile until you see a giant cowboy boot on your right (!) The restaurant is a

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five-minute drive down a long driveway just past the sign.

[#56] HIDDEN VALLEY INN (\$) 4825 N. Sabino Canyon Road. Lunch is served Daily from 11:30 am–3 pm; Dinner is from 5 pm–10 pm. Daily. 299-4941. The Hidden Valley Inn has separate lunch and dinner menus. Lunch features hot dogs, burritos, sandwiches and salads. The dinner menu focuses primarily on barbecue, steaks and seafood. The restaurant is casual and is known for its hand-carved wooden miniature displays.

DOWNTOWN (5–7 miles west)

In the past couple of years, Tucson has developed a lively “cafe society” and arts scene in its old downtown area. spurred by twice-monthly block party/gallery tours called “Downtown Saturday Nights”. As it happens, there’ll be a major one right in the middle of the convention, on Saturday, November 2, from about 8 pm to 1 am, which you might want to visit if you’re feeling adventurous.

“Downtown” encompasses three adjacent areas:

The Presidio District

Tucson’s Presidio District includes includes several old buildings from the era of Spanish settlement two centuries ago (although a number of others have been lost). Here you’ll find most of Tucson’s municipal buildings, and some interesting galleries and shops, including the Tucson Museum of Art, and Old Town Artisans, a complex of buildings selling Native American and Mexican jewelry and crafts at reasonable prices, as well as excellent work by local craftspeople.

To reach the Presidio District, we recommend the following route: First, go north on Alvernon two and a half miles to Grant Road, west (left) on Grant a little over four miles to Stone Avenue (four blocks past Sixth Avenue). Then go south on Stone about nine blocks, through an underpass, and make a right on Alameda. Then make a right on Court or Meyer Avenue. If you have trouble finding parking, there’s an inexpensive municipal parking garage on the south side of Alameda.

One of Tucson’s finest restaurants is located in the Presidio District. (*) **[#57] JANOS** (\$\$\$\$) is an internationally recognized showplace for the New

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Southwestern cuisine, located in the historic Hiram Stevens House. The food is superb, the wine list is excellent, and the service is impeccable. Reservations are essential, and should be made at least two days ahead of time. Follow the directions above to the Presidio District, then continue west on Alameda to Main Street, four blocks west of Stone, and make a right onto Main. 150 N. Main Ave. Tues – Sat 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm. 884-9426

For more informal dining, try (*) **[#74] EL CHARRO CAFE** (\$\$) 311 N. Court St. For more information, see the listing under Mexican restaurants below.

You can get a great lunch at Old Town Artisans at the **[#58] COURTYARD CAFE** (\$) including sandwiches, quiche, and chicken and hamburgers cooked while you wait on an outdoor mesquite grill. 186 N. Meyer Ave. Lunch from 11 am – 3 pm, coffee, drinks, and pastry from 9 am – 4 pm. 622-035

Congress Street

Around Congress Street, where the Downtown Saturday Night celebrations begin, you'll find a number of art galleries and crafts shops, as well as antiques, furniture, and clothing stores.

To get to Congress Street, go south on Alvernon one half mile to 22nd Street, west (right) on 22nd four miles to Sixth Avenue, and then north (right) on Sixth to Congress. One warning: If you go there on a allow about a half hour to find a place to park.

There are several interesting cafes and restaurants in the Congress Street area:

[#59] CUP CAFE (\$) 311 E. Congress St, in the Hotel Congress. Daily 8 am–2 pm, Thurs–Sat 6 pm–midnight. 798-1618 An extremely hip coffee shop and bar, located in an elegant old hotel recently redone in Art Gekko. The food is good; the people watching is great. There's even a dance club (Club Congress) in the hotel open weeknights.

(*) **[#60] CAFE MAGRITTE** (\$\$) 254 E. Congress. Tues–Thurs 11 am–11 pm, Fri 11 am–midnight, Sat noon–midnight, Sun 5 pm–11 pm. 884-8004 A popular restaurant with a cuisine that might be called Nouvelle Weird—impish modern

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cooking with a touch of Southwestern influence. The coffee is excellent, and the decor lives up to the restaurant's name. Reservations recommended.

[#61] CAFE QUEBEC (\$) 121 E. Broadway. Daily 11 am – midnight. 798-3552 A funky, informal dive where the young and painfully hip hang out. The food isn't much (a nice vegetarian chili, iced cappuccino, homemade desserts) but the ambience is great.

[#62] BENTLEY'S HOUSE OF COFFEE AND TEA (\$) 121 E. Congress. Mon & Tues, 7:30 am–10 pm, Wed & Thurs, 7:30 am–11 am, Friday, 7:30–midnight, Closed Sunday. 798-1715 A well-lighted downtown fixture with specialty coffees and teas, light meals and desserts. There's another branch at 1730 E Speedway, near the University of Arizona 795-0338.

[#63] BOWEN AND BAILEY CAFE AND GREENGROCER (\$) 135 S. 6th Ave, next to the Etherton Stern Gallery. Mon–Thurs 7 am–7 pm, Fri & Sat to 11 pm. 792-2623 Part deli and part coffee shop with espresso, cappuccino, good food, fresh produce, and tempting deserts. The proprietors are wonderful people.

Fourth Avenue

Along the eighteen blocks of Fourth Avenue between Broadway and 29th Street you'll find a collection of shops and boutiques tinged with the spirit of the Sixties. Here you'll find crystal and gem shops, bookstores, used clothing and thrift shops, Mexican gifts and crafts, even theatrical makeup and costumes. To get there, go south a half mile on Alvernon to 22nd Street, then west (right) about four miles on 22nd Street to Fourth Ave. There's usually plenty of parking on the street.

There are quite a few pleasant places to eat along Fourth Avenue, particularly for lunch:

[#64] THE DRINKING GOURD (\$) 326 N. Fourth Avenue. Mon –Thurs & Sun 8 am.–10 pm, Fri & Sat to midnight. 798-1314 Trendy coffee shop with espresso, desert, tea, and light food, with live entertainment most nights.

(*) **[#73] CASA LAS ROSAS** (\$\$) 429 N. Fourth Avenue 622-8207. (See under MEXICAN)

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(*) [#65] **CARUSO'S** (\$\$\$) 434 N. Fourth Avenue. 624-5765. Tucson, Arizona might not be the first place you'd expect to find a traditional Italian family restaurant, but the Zagona family has been serving delicious Italian food at this location for over half a century. Reservations recommended, especially for dinner.

[#66] **THE EGG GARDEN** (\$\$) 509 N. Fourth Avenue. Mon 7 am–3 pm, Tues–Sat 7 am–10 pm, Sun 8:30 am–2 pm. 622-0918 A casual place for breakfast, brunch, or lunch, which features good sandwiches and soups in addition to its specialties of egg dishes, omelettes, and quiches.

(*) [#67] **DELECTABLES** (\$\$) 533 N. Fourth Avenue, Mon–Sat 11 am–11 pm, Sun 11 am–5 pm. 884-9289. This popular sidewalk cafe features great salads, tasty sandwiches, European-style cheese, fruit, and meat boards, and a good selection of wines and beers. Be sure to check out the wacky used clothing store next door.

(*) [#68] **CAFE LA INDITA** (\$\$) 622 N. Fourth Avenue. A low-key, homey atmosphere, healthy food (including vegetarian dishes) and food that blends Mexican and Native American elements make this a pleasant stop for lunch or dinner.

MEXICAN RESTAURANTS

We've given Mexican restaurants their own section, since Tucson has the best Sonoran Mexican food outside of Mexico. If your notion of Mexican food is fiery Tex-Mex cuisine, Tucson has a pleasant surprise for you. Sonoran cuisine is richer and milder (though you should watch out for the mole poblano!), hearty down-home food so intoxicating, it should be a controlled substance. Most of Tucson's Mexican restaurants also offer a wide selection of excellent Mexican beers.

If you want to find the absolute best Mexican food in Tucson, grab hold of a native, and ask for their favorite place in South Tucson, the town's two-hundred-year-old barrio. These are frequently small, unassuming, and well-hidden. For the less adventurous, we've listed some of the better commercial establishments within a reasonable distance of the Doubletree, in alphabetical order.

For starters, we recommend (*) **CASA MOLINA**. The Molina family has been serving traditional Sonoran cooking in the Tucson area for over sixty years, and their

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restaurants consistently place among the best Mexican restaurants in Tucson. There are a number locations in Tucson run by various branches of the family.

[#69] CASA MOLINA (\$\$) 6225 E. Speedway. Daily 11 am–10 pm. 886-5468 Go one and a half miles north on Alvernon to Speedway, then three miles east (right) to the northwest corner of Wilmot. You'll see a bullfighter out front.

[#70] CASA MOLINA DEL NORTE #1 (\$\$) 3001 N. Campbell. Daily 11 am–10 pm. 795-9593 Go north two and a half miles on Alvernon to Grant Road, west (left) on Grant two miles to Campbell Avenue, then north (right) about seven blocks on Campbell. (If you reach Ft. Lowell Road, you've gone too far.)

[#71] CASA MOLINA DEL NORTE #2 (\$\$) 4240 E. Grant. Daily 11 am–10 pm. 326-6663 Go two and a half miles north on Alvernon to Grant, then three blocks east (right) on Grant.

[#72] EL MOLINITO (\$) 5380 E. 22nd St. Daily 9 am–10 pm. 747-9162 The Casa Molina formula, fast-food style, at reasonable prices. It even has its own tortilla factory! Go south one half mile on Alvernon to 22nd Street, then east (left) on 22nd Street two miles to the southwest corner of Craycroft.

(*) **[#73] CASA LAS ROSAS (\$\$)** 429 N. Fourth Avenue. 622-8207. One of Tucson's finest Mexican restaurants, renowned for its oversized chimichangas with all the fixings. Go a half mile north on Alvernon to Broadway, west (left) about three and a half miles to Fourth Avenue, then north (right) four blocks on Fourth Avenue.

(*) **[#74] EL CHARRO CAFE (\$\$)** 311 N. Court St. 622-5465. Tucson's oldest continuously operated restaurant, run by an old Mexican family. Located in Tucson's historic downtown Presidio district. History rubs off as you dine here. The food is terrific, too. Here's the best way to find it. Go one and a half miles north on Alvernon to Speedway, west (left) about four miles to Stone, south (left) on Stone about seven blocks under an underpass to Franklin Street, then two blocks west (right) on Franklin to Main Street.

(*) **[#75] CLUB TWENTY-ONE (\$\$)** 2920 N. Oracle (just north of Grant Road). Tues–Sun 11 am–10 pm, Fri & Sat to 11 pm. 622-3092 If you're willing to drive a

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bit, this restaurant was voted the Best Mexican Restaurant by the Arizona Daily Star. Go two and a half miles north on Alvernon to Grant, about four miles west (left) on Grant to Oracle, then five blocks north (right) on Oracle.

[#76] GUILLERMO'S DOUBLE-L RESTAURANT 1830 S. 4th Avenue. Mon–Sat 11 am–10 pm. 792-1585 A homey Tucson tradition for over 40 years — Guillermo makes a good margarita. Go a half mile south on Alvernon to 22nd Street, west (right) about three and a half miles to Fourth Avenue, then south (left) one half mile to 29th Street.

[#77] EL MEZON DEL COBRE (\$\$) 2960 N. First Ave. Daily 11 am–10 pm. 791-0977 Good Sonoran cooking with the emphasis on seafood. Go north two and a half miles on Alvernon to Grant Road, west (left) about three miles to First Avenue, then north (right) about five blocks on First.

[#78] LA PARILLA SUIZA (\$\$) 5602 E. Speedway. Daily 11 am–10 pm, Fri & Sat to 11 pm. 747-4838 The Tucson branch of the popular Mexican chain, serving authentic Mexico City style food (a bit spicier than northern Sonoran cooking). Go north one and a half miles on Alvernon to Speedway, then east (right) about two miles, one block past Craycroft Road.

[#79] LA PLACITA (\$\$) 2950 N. Swan Rd. Mon–Sat 11:30 am–2 pm, Nightly 5 pm–9 pm. 881-1150 Casual but classy Mexican restaurant with dynamite carne seca. Go two and a half miles north on Alvernon to Grant Road, east (right) one mile to Swan Road, then north (left) about five blocks on Swan.

[#80] TIA ELENA (\$\$) 3402 E. Grant. Mon–Thurs 11 am–10 pm, Fri & Sat to 11 pm, Sun noon–10 pm. Don't let the curvy windows and the giant buglike sculpture on the front of the building throw you. They're holdovers from Tucson's hippie past. Tia Elena is one of Tucson's better Mexican restaurants, with reasonable prices and a great selection of beers. Go north two and a half miles on Alvernon to Grant, then west (left) on Grant about five blocks.

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Included in This Guide —

Alphabetical Listing

- [#24] BASKIN ROBBINS
 [#62] BENTLEY HOUSE OF COFFEE & TEA
 [#7] BEST WESTERN AZTEC INN
 [#38] BISTRO BAR BOCCATA
 [#47] BIT OF BUDAPEST
 [#31] THE BLUE WILLOW
 [#63] BOWEN & BAILEY
 [#20] BURGER KING
 [#1] THE CACTUS ROSE
 [#60] CAFE MAGRITTE
 [#68] CAFE LA INDITA
 [#61] CAFE QUEBEC
 [#36] CAFE TERRA COTTA
 [#13] CARL'S JR
 [#65] CARUSO'S
 [#69] CASA MOLINA
 [#70] CASA MOLINA DEL NORTE #1
 [#71] CASA MOLINA DEL NORTE #2
 [#73] CASA LAS ROSAS
 [#75] CLUB TWENTY-ONE
 [#58] COURTYARD CAFE
 [#59] CUP CAFE
 [#37] DANIEL'S
 [#53] DAKOTA CAFE
 [#67] DELECTABLES
 [#39] DESERT GARDEN
 [#5] DOMINO'S
 [#64] DRINKING GOURD
 [#66] THE EGG GARDEN
 [#74] EL CHARRO CAFE
 [#77] EL MEZON DEL COBRE
 [#72] EL MOLINITO
 [#42] ENCORE MED
 [#18] FRY'S SUPERMARKET
 [#48] THE GOOD EARTH
 [#76] GUILLERMO'S DOUBLE-L
 [#6] HIDDEN VALLEY INN DELIVERY
 [#56] HIDDEN VALLEY INN
 [#29] JACK'S ORIGINAL BARBECUE
 [#15 & #22] JACK IN THE BOX
 [#57] JANOS
 [#2] THE JAVELINA CANTINA
 [#54] JEROME'S
 [#16] JOHNNIE'S
 [#28] KOREAN HOUSE
 [#78] LA PARILLA SUIZA
 [#79] LA PLACITA
 [#40] LA VILLA
 [#33] LE RENDEZ-VOUS
 [#3] LODGE IN THE DESERT
 [#14] LONG JOHN SILVER
 [#44] MAHARAJA
 [#46] NEW DELHI PALACE
 [#25] NEW YORK PIZZA
 [#30] OLD PEKING
 [#10] OXFORD CLUB
 [#32] PAINTED DESERT
 [#35] PALOMINO
 [#12] PETER PIPER PIZZA
 [#52] PINNACLE PEAK
 [#27] THE PRESIDIO GRILL
 [#34] THE RANCHER'S CLUB
 [#26] REAY'S RANCH MARKET
 [#4] ROUND TABLE PIZZA
 [#51] SAKURA
 [#21] ST. GEORGE'S BUFFET
 [#45] SITAR
 [#23] SIZZLER
 [#50] SOLARIUM
 [#55] THE TACK ROOM
 [#17] THIRTY-SOMETHING TAVERN
 [#80] TIA ELENA
 [#49] THE TUCSON CORK
 [#43] TOHONO CHUL TEA ROOM
 [#19] WALGREEN'S PHARMACY
 [#11] WILBUR'S BAR & GRILL
 [#41] VENTANA
 [#8] VISCOUNT SUITES BUFFET

Southwestern

- [#1] THE CACTUS ROSE
- [#2] THE JAVELINA CANTINA
- [#27] THE PRESIDIO GRILL
- [#34] THE RANCHER'S CLUB
- [#36] CAFE TERRA COTTA *
- [#55] THE TACK ROOM *
- [#57] JANOS *
- [#60] CAFE MAGRITTE *
- [#68] CAFE LA INDITA *

Buffet

- [#8] VISCOUNT SUITES BUFFET
- [#21] ST. GEORGE'S BUFFET

Oriental

- [#28] KOREAN HOUSE
- [#30] OLD PEKING
- [#51] SAKURA

General

- [#3] THE LODGE IN THE DESERT
- [#7] BEST WESTERN AZTEC INN
- [#16] JOHNNIE'S
- [#32] PAINTED DESERT
- [#48] THE GOOD EARTH *
- [#66] THE EGG GARDEN

Steaks & Barbecue

- [#10] OXFORD CLUB
- [#6] HIDDEN VALLEY INN DELIVERY
- [#56] HIDDEN VALLEY INN
- [#29] JACK'S ORIGINAL BARBECUE
- [#23] SIZZLER
- [#34] THE RANCHER'S CLUB

- [#49] THE TUCSON CORK *
- [#52] PINNACLE PEAK

Bars and Taverns

- [#2] JAVELINA CANTINA
- [#11] WILBUR'S BAR & GRILL
- [#17] THIRTY-SOMETHING TAVERN
- [#39] DESERT GARDEN *

Markets and Pharmacies

- [#18] FRY'S SUPERMARKET
- [#19] WALGREEN'S PHARMACY
- [#26] REAY'S RANCH MARKET
- [#63] BOWEN & BAILEY CAFE

Franchise Restaurants

- [#4] ROUND TABLE PIZZA
- [#5] DOMINO'S
- [#12] PETER PIPER PIZZA
- [#13] CARL'S JR
- [#14] LONG JOHN SILVER
- [#15 & 22] JACK IN THE BOX
- [#20] BURGER KING
- [#24] BASKIN ROBBINS
- [#25] NEW YORK PIZZA

Cafes and Coffee Houses

- [#31] THE BLUE WILLOW *
- [#43] TOHONO CHUL TEA ROOM *
- [#58] COURTYARD CAFE
- [#59] CUP CAFE
- [#61] CAFE QUEBEC
- [#62] BENTLEY HOUSE OF COFFEE & TEA
- [#63] BOWEN & BAILEY CAFE
- [#64] DRINKING GOURD
- [#67] DELECTABLES *

(*) indicates one of the best restaurants of its kind in Tucson.

Continental

- [#47] BIT OF BUDAPEST (Hungarian)
- [#33] LE RENDEZ-VOUS (French) *
- [#35] PALOMINO (Greek)
- [#37] DANIEL'S (Italian) *
- [#38] BISTRO BAR BOCCATA (Italian)
- [#65] CARUSO'S (Italian) *
- [#41] VENTANA (Cont'l & Southwestern) *
- [#42] ENCORE MED (Cont'l & Med.) *

Italian and Pizza

- [#4] ROUND TABLE PIZZA
- [#5] DOMINO'S
- [#9] VISCOUNT SUITES
- [#12] PETER PIPER PIZZA
- [#25] NEW YORK PIZZA
- [#37] DANIEL'S *
- [#38] BISTRO BAR BOCCATA
- [#65] CARUSO'S *

Seafood

- [#27] THE PRESIDIO GRILL
- [#40] LA VILLA *
- [#50] SOLARIUM
- [#54] JEROME'S *

Indian

- [#44] MAHARAJA
- [#45] SITAR
- [#46] NEW DELHI PALACE *

Nouvelle Cuisine

- [#53] DAKOTA CAFE *

Salad Bars

- [#1] THE CACTUS ROSE
- [#7] BEST WESTERN AZTEC INN
- [#23] SIZZLER
- [#26] REAYS RANCH MARKET
- [#63] BOWEN & BAILEY CAFE

Mexican

- [#69] CASA MOLINA *
- [#70] CASA MOLINA DEL NORTE #1 *
- [#71] CASA MOLINA DEL NORTE #2 *
- [#72] EL MOLINITO
- [#73] CASA LAS ROSAS *
- [#74] EL CHARRO CAFE *
- [#75] CLUB TWENTY-ONE *
- [#76] GUILLERMO'S DOUBLE-L
- [#77] EL MEZON DEL COBRE
- [#78] LA PARILLA SUIZA
- [#79] LA PLACITA
- [#80] TIA ELENA

Reservations Recommended

- [#1] THE CACTUS ROSE
- [#3] THE LODGE IN THE DESERT
- [#33] LE RENDEZ VOUS *
- [#34] THE RANCHER'S CLUB
- [#37] DANIEL'S *
- [#39] DESERT GARDEN *
- [#40] LA VILLA *
- [#41] VENTANA *
- [#42] ENCORE MED *
- [#43] TOHONO CHUL TEA ROOM *
- [#49] THE TUCSON CORK *
- [#55] THE TACK ROOM *
- [#57] JANOS *
- [#60] CAFE MAGRITTE *
- [#65] CARUSO'S *

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