

WHERE TO EAT

Guac & Awe

The Phoenix/Scottsdale area doesn't really have a food identity—but then, it doesn't really need one. Whether you're hankering for food-truck tacos, the daily catch or anything in between, it's here.

By Joe Passov



La Hacienda serves up savory fiestas and fine tequilas.

La Hacienda by Richard Sandoval

Tucked away at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess is one of the nation's top-rated Mexican restaurants. Start with a tequila tasting via the resort's Tequila Goddess, who educates and pours from more than 200 varieties. Guacamole prepared tableside, the chorizo and potato empanadas appetizer, the carnitas hacienda main course and a flaming coffee dessert pair beautifully with the handsome decor. fairmont.com/scottsdale

Phil's Grill

Lefty not only christened the place in 1994, he helped plan the menu. The premier public-access 19th hole in Arizona dishes out tasty prime-rib sliders, Navajo corn chowder with a kick, goldfish bowl-sized margaritas and mounds of Mickelson memorabilia. The restaurant flows into Grayhawk's other dining establishment, the Quill Creek Cafe, where patrons on the outdoor patio enjoy stellar McDowell Mountain views. grayhawkgolf.com

Mastro's City Hall Steakhouse

Mastro's is now a national presence, but it all started in Scottsdale. And while the north Scottsdale original continues to rock it, checking out their Old Scottsdale location will get you a great steak, plus easy access afterward to buzzy nightspots for the young and young at heart. For now, feast on Mastro's clubby atmosphere, the thriving live piano scene and diet-wrecking menu items. You can't miss with the sizzling bone-in filet, accompanied by lobster mashed potatoes or gorgonzola mac and cheese. mastrorestaurants.com



The maestros at Mastro's do a divine bone-in filet.