

PLACES TO EAT AND PLACES TO SEE

TEMPE

House of Tricks

A lush little getaway from the bustle of Mill Avenue, House of Tricks serves up light lunches and elegant dinners in two cottages built in the early 1900s, separated by an outdoor bar. Just a dozen tables dot the creaky-floored inside of one cottage, lending an intimate charm to the place. A lovely garden patio faces the house, where you can sip on raspberry-strewn lemonade under leafy trees while munching on the splendid homemade quiche of the day. This is one of Tempe's most upscale restaurants. Great wine list. Long time friends of Gayle and Bob. 114 E. Seventh St. (east of Mill Ave., 5-10 minutes from hotel). 480.968.1114

Thai Basil

Refreshingly unpretentious, this neighborhood Thai spot is to-the-point. There are a few Eastern decorations on the wall, but other than that this spot is about freshly-prepared, light, and unpretentious Thai fare. Get the Sweet Nut Curry and you will never be disappointed: a pleasant waft of curry spice that you can order mild or hot melds with the sweetness of a milky sauce that drifts over peanuts, veggies, and the meat of your choice. Try the deliciously odd purple Thai Sticky Rice Custard for dessert, flavored with sweet plum undertones. 403 W. University Dr. (at Farmer, 5 minutes from hotel). 480.968.9250

The Farm at South Mountain

If you come to Phoenix and don't have breakfast at the Morning Glory Café, you will have missed out on one of this city's top gems. Located on a 12-acre organic farm complex in South Phoenix, its three restaurants offer food that has been planted, nurtured, and cooked on the fatha' the land. Seated at a table shaded by spreading pecan trees at the Morning Glory Café, you are greeted with fresh-squeezed orange juice and a warm basket full of fresh-baked muffins and scones. Their omelets ooze fresh Mozzarella and the twice-cooked Banana Pecan French toast is maple-scented heaven. 6106 S. 32nd St. (just south of Southern Avenue, 20 minutes from the hotel). 8am-noon Tues-Fri, 8am – 1 Sat & Sun. 602.276.8804.

Oregano's

Oh, Oregano's. Sure, they have hearty and delicious thin *and* stuffed-crust pizzas, with a myriad fresh toppings to choose from, and of course, with names like "Alfredo the Dark," the pastas are winners too, and yes, the ambience with its big-band swing feel, bright interior and twinkly-lit patio exterior is fun, but really, what's most important here is the *Pizookie*. A 1/2 pound of Chocolate Chip, White Chocolate Macadamia, or Peanut Butter Chocolate cookie dough is only partially baked in a 6-inch pan, topped with generous scoops of vanilla bean ice cream. It's gooey perfection, with the warmth of the just-out-of-the-oven cookie contrasted against the buttery cold of the ice cream. Only consider sharing when a button pops somewhere. 523 W. University Dr., 5 minutes from the hotel. 480.858.0501

Casey Moore's

A favorite of hipsters in the know and the after hours drinking location of many Changing Hands booksellers, this pub has a sprawling patio area that winds around the converted 1910 house, great for sitting in the sun and enjoying a cold brew and hearty pub fare. Billed as an Oyster House and Seafood Restaurant, it's primarily known as a bar for the ASU crowd, and a restaurant second. However, that's not to discount its excellent thick, creamy soups, burgers, and fresh seafood specials (fresh fish shipped in daily) served with the Chef's famous fruit salsas. 850 S. Ash (at 9th Street, half-block south of University and Ash). 5 minutes from hotel. 480.968.9935

Rula Bula

A new(ish) addition to the Mill Avenue scene, this Irish pub contains many of the bric-a-brac, interior design elements, and flooring reflective of pubs from late 19th-century Ireland. Great place to relax with a pint of Guinness and a book during the quiet of the afternoon. Becomes a bit more rowdy as the night wears on and the ASU students come in droves. 11 am – 1 am (2 am weekends) 401 S. Mill Ave. 5-10 minutes from the hotel. 480.929.9500

Harlow's Café

This local Tempe breakfast is tucked away into a non-descript strip next to a tack and feed shop, but the food is hardly non-descript. A local favorite for hungover hipsters, Harlow's serves up big portions of the favorites that burst with flavor: Eggs Maximillian with Chorizo, French Toast, and Country fried chicken with oh-so-soft biscuits hit the spot. It's cheap, too – you'll be hard-pressed to have an enormous breakfast for two and get a bill over \$25. 1021 W. University (University and Hardy), 5 minutes from the hotel. 480.829.9444

Dilly Deli

An easy, satisfying spot to grab a quick soup and sandwich. An enormous chalk board details the shop's numerous sandwich options, with names like the Yahoo, the Gobbler, and the Humdinger (pastrami piled high with chipotle slaw, jalapeno jack cheese and special sauce). Your best bet is to go for a hearty bowl of Boston clam chowder and a half-sandwich, all for under \$8. 414 W. University Drive (University and Farmer) 5 minutes from the hotel). 480.929.0111

Four Peaks

Famous for its Flagstaff-brewed "Kilt-Lifter" Scottish-style ale, this brick-outfitted brewery/restaurant's décor is replete with enormous steel barrels offsetting the brick on the inside and a tree-lined patio for the sippin'. Serving far above-average pub fare, Four Peaks has an excellent 5-layer nacho platter that oozes melted cheese and hot chicken and massive burgers with top-notch fries. Four Peaks takes its beer seriously, featuring locally-brewed beers in addition to stateside and European ales, all the while rotating different beers on tap, so you can try something new on each visit. 1340 E. 8th St. (off of Rural and 8th St.) 10 minutes from hotel. 480.303.9967

Sushi 101

Clean and stream-lined, this sushi restaurant is an easy spot to grab some tempura and assorted maki over cocktails. Happy hour specials from 4-7 pm lead to a happy bill, about 2/3 of what you would normally pay. Not to worry if you arrive a bit later (or earlier, for lunch) because the menu is already reasonably priced, and features noodle and vegetarian options if sushi's not your cup of (green) tea. 920 E. University Drive, 5-10 minutes from the hotel. 480.317.0101

Three Roots

A cozy, quiet spot to take your laptop and sip on a latte while making yourself comfortable amid the colorful velvety pillows, watching the indie ASU students drift in and out. Games and magazines abound for entertainment. There is a rotating vegetarian-friendly menu along with some light snacks. 1020 S. Mill Ave. (just across from the ASU Art Museum, 5-10 minutes from the hotel). 480.966.4949

Restaurant Mexico

Restaurant Mexico has been a staple for many residents, Tempe and otherwise, for more than 30 years, and it is easy to see why. Food with quality ingredients at more than reasonable prices is not always easy to come by, but Restaurant Mexico does the job exceedingly well. House-made chips and salsa are brought to the table with the menus. The food list is fairly long, and there are daily lunch specials during the week. From sopas to burros with whole pintos beans, chunks of fresh avocado and mild tomatillo sauce. Long time favorite of Changing Hands. Mill and Fifth Street, Tempe 5-10 minutes from hotel. 480.967.3280

Café Boa

A European-style pasta house and wine bar, Café Boa is nestled into a side street off the bustle of Mill Avenue. Serving up classic Italian dishes such as bruschetta and caprese salad, Boa also offers some different dishes that burst with spice, such as the homemade spicy fennel-seed sausage sautéed with tomato, garlic, olives, mushrooms, and basil. Excellent happy-hour from 4-7, with half-off appetizers and glasses of wine. 398 S. Mill Ave., 10 minutes from hotel. 480.968.9112

Greens

Green is a vegan-vegetarian restaurant that masters all comfort foods and celebrates vegetables. Organic ingredients, unrefined, unbleached ingredients. Excellent apricot-miso bowl, with your choice of mock beef, chicken, or tofu. 2240 N. Scottsdale Rd. Tempe 15 minutes from hotel. 480.941.9003

Café Lalibela

Traditional Ethiopian cuisine - injera and wat. Injera, Vegetarian and non-vegetarian. The best part – you eat with your hands. 849 W. University Dr., Tempe, 10 minutes from hotel. 480.829.1939

The Chuck Box

America's favorite sandwich shines here in an uncomplicated serving of quality ground beef, plopped on a fresh bun and gussied with a slice of cheese, bacon or guacamole. The burgers are cooked to order on a mesquite charcoal broiler, then served on trays to be dressed at the condiment bar. 202 E. University Dr. 10 minutes from hotel. 480.968.4712

Efes Turkish Cuisine

In the same strip mall as Changing Hands – its quaint, cozy interior's hung with Turkish rugs, plates and nazar, good-luck charms to ward off the evil eye. The various lamb and chicken kebabs kick ass, the eggplant starters are delicious, and the decidedly non-Turkish cheesecake may be the best in town. 1701 E. Guadalupe Rd., 480.897.3017

Mielie's

In the strip mall across the street from Changing Hands – one of the best white pizzas around. Great menu of pizza (regular and Sicilian), calzones, pastas, salads, a few traditional entrees (parmigiana, marsala, piccata) and subs (cold and hot). 1835 E. Guadalupe Road, Tempe (480) 897-3010

Mucho Gusto Taqueria & Mexican Bistro

Mucho Gusto delivers affordable, gourmet Mexican/Southwestern cuisine. Chef/co-owner Carlos Manriquez is a maestro of sauces, from mole to more exotic creations, including amaretto garlic, and one made with Coca-Cola and chocolate. The clams in adobo sauce kick ass as an appetizer, and the margaritas are superb. 603 W. University Dr. 10 minutes from hotel. 480.921.1850

Pita Jungle

Funky, popular spot that features local art on the walls, a healthful, vegetarian-friendly menu, and more dreadlocks and doo-rags than you may ever see in one place. Thick baba ghanouj, roasted chicken pita, or "dolphin-friendly" tuna melt pizza. Brown rice, lentils, tabbouleh, tofu and veggie burgers. 1250 E. Apache Rd., 15 minutes from hotel. 480.804.0234

Z'tejas Grill

An Austin creation featuring creative Southwestern cooking big plates, great drinks. 20 E. Sixth St off of Mill Ave. 10 minutes from hotel. 480.377.1170

SCOTTSDALE!**Roaring Fork**

Hearty but haute Western American cuisine for Phoenix's urbane cowfolk. Patrons come to the airy, light dining rooms for the chile-cured duck breast and terrific short ribs (served with cheese grits). Be prepared to do battle to get a table in the more casual "saloon" section during weekday happy hours; this is a favorite spot to meet after work for a huckleberry margarita and green chile pork stew or the famous "Big-Ass" burger (for just \$8). 4800 N. Scottsdale Rd, southwest corner of Chapparal and Scottsdale. 20 minute drive from hotel. 480.947.0795

Sea Saw

A whiz with bone wine and raw fish, Nobu Fukuda has Scottsdale's glitterati huddling around the sushi bar in a tiny (26-seat) stylishly pared-down room, nibbling seared tuna tataki and discussing wine vintages. Even those who don't like fish in any form will find plenty to savor here, including a dazzling creamy edamame soup. Dishes are reasonably priced but fairly small, so the tab can add up quickly; if you plan to splurge anyway, go for the tasting menu (\$125), which pairs Fukuda's fish and wine selections. 7133 E. Stetson Dr. (just north of 6th Ave.). 20 minute drive from hotel, 480.481.9463

Cowboy Ciao

Goofily decorated with Mardi Gras beads and a bright blue star-spangled ceiling, this former art gallery is one of Scottsdale's hippest (and friendliest) downtown retreats. Locals drop by for wine flights and a menu that successfully pairs Southwestern ingredients with Italian specialties. Save room for the warm, praline-sauced bread pudding. 7133 E. Stetson Dr. (north of 5th Ave.), 20 minute drive from the hotel. 480.946.3111

Los Olivos

This family-owned and operated Mexican restaurant has been around since the art in the nearby downtown Scottsdale galleries was affordable. Offers delicious Sonoran-style staples: green-corn tamales, chicken enchiladas, and the like. Fun décor makes for a great ambience; try the Blue Room for margaritas and appetizers. 7328 E. 2nd St. (adjacent to SMOCA), 15-20 minute drive from the hotel. 480.946.2256

PHOENIX!

Matt's Big Breakfast

Matt Pool is a key player in the downtown food scene. His morning-meal restaurant dishes up hearty organic fare on a quiet street bordering the warehouse district in downtown Phoenix. It's the only spot for blocks that has people happily waiting outside the charming one-story house for a table. Have a late breakfast here and be sure to try the Griddlecakes with sweet cream butter and thick, bonafide maple syrup. Yum. 801 N. 1st St., 20 minute drive from hotel. 602.254.1074

The Roosevelt

Matt Pool's newest venture, The Roosevelt Tavern, offers a hip, urban cool feel in a renovated historical house in the heart of downtown. Hop in for an ice-cold local brew: his drafts are cooled by a modern system using glycol and run under the floorboards. Sit at a communal table in the dining room and meet a new friend while you eye his hot pretzel dipped in grainy thick mustards. Then order the tomato soup and grilled cheese that's, ahem, even better than Mom's. 816 N. 3rd St. (Roosevelt and 3rd St.) 20 minute drive from the hotel. 602.254.2561

Postinos/La Grande Orange

Developers and planners from all over the country come to see this former dumpy strip mall turned inspired community gathering place. Postinos is a great wine bar – light food in a renovated former post office. La Grande Orange Pizzeria has excellent pizza, sangria and a bonafide gelateria just next door. The grocery is a great place to pick up snacks, a good bottle of wine, or a dog toy. One coming soon to Denver, Pasadena and Santa Monica. 40th Street & Campbell, 30 minutes from the hotel. 602-840-7777.

Cibo

Cibo serves up traditional thin-crust pies in a twinkly, old, romantic house in the heart of the Roosevelt historic district. Split the Antipasto Speciale -- fresh cheeses, dried meats, and roasted veggies – then move on to the savory red or white pizza. If there's room, the Nutella-filled crepe is a delight. 603 N. 5th Ave. at Fillmore St. (20 minutes from hotel). 602.526.0210

Pizzeria Bianco

You've heard about it on Oprah, so it's gotta be good. James Beard award-winning chef, Chris Bianco owns and runs this pizzeria, billed as one of the best in the country. His terrific salads, antipastos, and wood-fired pizzas (among them, the "Wiseguy," topped with fennel sausage and house-smoked mozzarella) are made with top-notch, often organic, ingredients. The bad news: housed in a tiny 1927 house near the ballpark, the place is always packed and you're guaranteed at least a 3-4 hour wait, now that Oprah has talked about his pizza on her show. 623 E. Adams St., just west of 7th St. (20 minutes from hotel). 602.258.8300

Barrio Cafe

Just so you know before you visit the Barrio Café, they do not have chips and salsa, rice and beans or chimichangas. This James Beard Award winning chef inspired food of her heritage of Southern Mexico, including made at your table guacamole with pomegranite seeds. No reservations, always a minimum of a

30-60 minute wait. Acoustics are poor, but food is unlike anything you've ever had. 2814 N. 16th Street, Phoenix 1/2 block south of Thomas. 20 minutes from hotel. 602.636.0240

THINGS TO SEE

Desert Botanical Garden (Papago Park, Phoenix)

Wondering about all those weird prickly things you keep seeing? You're still filled with wonder after examining some of the 20,000 types of desert plants gathered here from around the world, but you're armed with a lot more information. Don't miss the butterfly pavilion. 1201 N. Galvin Parkway (south of McDowell Road), 15 minutes from hotel. 480.481.8134

Phoenix Art Museum

One of the Southwest's largest art museums, this venue hosts all the major shows from out of town. Having just gone through a major architectural & design re-vamp, the space is a must-see, and on Sundays, the museum offers free lectures, films, and presentations. On exhibit Rembrandt and the Golden Age of Dutch Art 1625 N. Central Ave. (at Coronado Rd.) 20 minutes from the hotel. 602.257.1222

Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMOCA)

This venue is a former discount movie theater that has been creatively converted into an art space: the design of it alone is a modern art piece. Rotating exhibits highlight architecture, design, painting, sculpture, and short films. The museum isn't that large; you can see everything in around an hour, after which you can wander outside and check out 13 modern sculptures, including Robert Indiana's red *LOVE* sculpture icon of the 1960s. On exhibit – Celebrity and The Art of Willie Birch. 7374 E. 2nd St. (at Drinkwater Blvd.) 20 minutes from the hotel. 480.994.ARTS

Arizona Science Museum

This museum features futuristic architecture by Antoine Predock and attempts to turn learning into fun. Interactive exhibits including All About Me and Fab Lab are cleverly designed to educate and entertain. On exhibit - Body Worlds 3 - a traveling exhibition of preserved human bodies and body parts that are prepared using a technique called plastination to reveal inner anatomical structures. 600 East Washington St (Northwest corner of Washington and Seventh Streets) PHX (20 minutes from hotel) 602.716.2000

Talliesin West (North Scottsdale)

You don't have to be an architecture buff to admire the winter home, studio, and architectural "laboratory" of America's master builder, Frank Lloyd Wright. Now a National Historic Landmark, this space was part of the training program for the apprentices at the (still operating) Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture, where the trainees live(d) in tents outside as part of their learning how to create architecture that reflected and worked with Phoenix's stubborn land and climate. Definitely take one of the excellent architecture tours offered. 12621 Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd (114th St. & Cactus Road, 45 minutes from hotel). 480.860.2700

Grand Canyon

The Grand Canyon is incredible! It is more than a great chasm carved over millennia through the rocks of the Colorado Plateau. It is more than an awe-inspiring view. It is a wonder. (4 hours from hotel).

Great SPAS

We have some of the best in the country. Email or call us for a reference.