

# DIVERSITY

## *Describes the Valley Restaurants*

Phoenix and Arizona's Valley of the Sun has a brand of cuisine that is as distinctive as it is diversified.

The range of cooking is cosmopolitan and western. So is the variety of decor in the hundreds of restaurants that dot this desert and oasis playground that has grown to become a hospitality and cuisine center of the Southwest.

The restaurant atmosphere swings from Mexican to Mongolian, Polynesian, Chinese and Japanese. Even highly rated French restaurants with world-class style and service have sprouted on the sunswept landscape.

Many of the restaurants have entertainment. Emphasis is on the more intimate, informal, relaxing type of evening fun — a trio or small band for dancing, a pianist-solist, banjo or guitar player and "join the gang" songfests.

Those famous and luxurious resorts are fine bets for dining out, and all of them have evening entertainment. There are a half dozen nationally acclaimed resorts that feature excellent food, outstanding atmosphere and entertainment at a good price value.

Most visitors will want to sample the distinctive western-style dining offered by a host of restaurants with Old West motifs. Many of these places specialize in barbecue ribs, steak and other western cuisine. A heavy helping of porch-fronted buildings, rail hitching posts, corrals, western music and atmosphere goes along with gener-

ous food servings.

The service is good and brisk but informality is mandatory. For example, if a male diner wears a tie in one western restaurant, it may be snipped off by the waiter and hung up with thousands of similar trophies.

The fare often includes platter-size steaks, chili beans, garlic bread, tossed salad and a hearty frontier-brand of coffee. The aroma of the cooking alone is enough to double one's appetite — and the desert air helps to stretch it a bit farther.

Many guest schedule a desert "cookout" for either breakfast or dinner a spart of their entertainment package.

Mean while, back in town, there are high-rise restaurants which offers diners a view of the changing city and desert landscape.

Gourmet cuisine and service are available throughout the Valley at a price tag 20 to 30 percent below large midwestern and eastern cities.

Whatever the price — the quality, atmosphere, color and versatility of the restaurants in the Valley of the Sun make the area shine for diners.

For accomodation reservations, call toll-free (800) 528-0483 For visitor information call (602) 254-6500. ■



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