

DINING

Treat yourself to a 'Mexican Fiesta' on Cinco de Mayo

BY KEELY WYGNIK AND RENEE SROGLUND
STAFF WRITERS

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In Mexico, May 5, Cinco de Mayo, is a special day. It commemorates the victory of the Mexican people over the French in a battle that took place on May 5, 1862. The battle marked the beginning of the end of European domination in Mexico.

Cinco de Mayo is celebrated in Mexico with parades and feasting. Fortunately, the celebration has spread north of the border, all the way to metro Detroit. Some local restaurants, like the newly remodeled Mexican Fiesta II in Canton, will have entertainment this Friday.

At the Mexican Fiesta II, diners will eat to the rhythm of a mariachi band 1-2 p.m. "The Mexican people are so very festive," said Nancy Schultz, a manager. "We like to celebrate."

If you haven't visited the restaurant for awhile, you're in for a treat. Owned by the Alvarado family of Canton, Mexican Fiesta II is known for its authentic Mexican cuisine. Popular menu items include the botanas, burritos, enchiladas and several kinds of fajitas - chicken, beef or shrimp. They also offer seven different Mexican beers, ice cream drinks, margaritas and other cocktails.

"If you're not a fan of Mexican cuisine, like they say, 'no problema.' The menu includes hamburgers, chicken strips and stir-fry, fish 'n' chips and a shrimp dinner.

Recent renovations include a remodeled lounge area, new wall coverings and murals, pictures, ceramic tile and wrought iron accents. "It's much more open now," said Schultz.

The Alvarados have been

Mexican Fiesta II

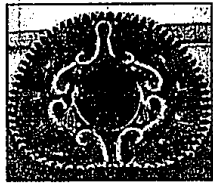
Where: 44401 Ford Road, corner of Sheldon Road, Canton, (734) 981-1048.
Open: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to midnight Friday-Saturday.

Menu: Mexican fare, hamburgers and other sandwiches, pork chops, sirloin steak, roast beef, chicken strips and fish 'n' chips. Children's menu available.

Cost: Lunch entrees \$4.25 to \$9.75; dinner \$5.25 to \$10.
Reservations: Not accepted Friday nights, Saturday or Sunday; recommended Monday-Thursday for parties of six or more.

Credit cards: All majors accepted.

Bandquet room: Seats 30-35 people.
Catering: Available for parties and other special events.
Carryout: Available.



pleasing palates Mexican-style since they opened the Mexican Fiesta in Dearborn Heights nearly 34 years ago. They opened their Canton location 10 years ago.

"The restaurants are all run by family," said Schultz. "We want our customers to leave here satisfied."

Celebrate

Join the fiesta. Celebrate Cinco de Mayo, or any special occasion, with dinner at your favorite Mexican restaurant.

- Try some of these:
 - Mexican Fiesta - 24310 Ford Road, near Telegraph, Dearborn Heights, (313) 274-3069. Hours: 11 a.m. to midnight Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Friday-Saturday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday.
 - Old Mexico - 28407 Five

Milo Road (between Inkster and Middlebelt), Livonia, (734) 421-3310. Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday-Saturday. Closed Sunday.

- Rancho Grande Mexican Restaurant - 7034 Middlebelt, Garden City, (734) 427-1177. Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday; noon to 11 p.m. Saturday; noon to 9 p.m. Sunday.

- New Mexico - 36851 Ford Road, Westland, (734) 641-9455. Hours: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day.

- Don Pablo's - 39895 Ford Road, Canton, (734) 844-7838; 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday.

- Dos Pisos - 11800 Belleville Road, south of I-94, Belleville, (734) 697-5777. Hours: 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11



Celebrate: Nancy Schultz and Julio Rues present Chicken Fajitas and Botana, just two of the many items you'll find on the menu at the newly remodeled Mexican Fiesta II Restaurant in Canton.

a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Closed Sunday.

- El Nibble Nook - 27725 Eight Mile Road, Livonia, (248) 474-0755. Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday; noon to 11 p.m. Saturday; noon to 9 p.m. Sunday. Strolling mariachi band Friday nights.

- Rio Bravo Cantina - 19265 Victor Parkway (at Seven Mile Road), Livonia, (734) 542-0700. Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday. Fairlane Town Cen-

ter, Dearborn, (313) 271-2900. Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

- The Burro - 3574 Plymouth Road (at Green), (734) 623-0109. Hours: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon to 9 p.m. Sunday. Deliveries in Ann Arbor area.

- La Fiesta Mexicana - 529 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti, (734) 483-1086. Hours: 4-9 p.m. Monday; 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday.
- Tios - 333 E. Huron, Ann

Arbor, (734) 761-6550. Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 a.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m. to midnight Sunday. Deliveries in Ann Arbor area.

Carryout Only

- Las Fajitas - 29866 Ford Road (west of Middlebelt), Garden City, (734) 266-2299. Hours: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Friday; 3-9 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sunday.

- Little Armando's - 34718 Plymouth Road, Livonia, (734) 522-9686. Hours: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Friday; 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday; 4:30-8:30 p.m. Sunday.

RESTAURANT SPECIALS

Send dinner specials, menu changes, restaurant renovations, and other items to Keely Wygnik, Assistant Managing Editor Features Group, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Tlx fax, (734) 591-7279 or e-mail keelywygnik@hcc.com.net.

"Students - what restaurants do you recommend for prom night? If you're a restaurant owner, and are planning a special menu for Mother's Day, let us know. Send, fax or e-mail your dining suggestions and menus to Wygnik for consideration in an upcoming dining feature."

Share our Strength - You can satisfy your appetite and help fill up the wallets of needy organizations at the same time. The Somerset Collection South in Troy presents the Share Our Strength's 2000 Taste of the Nation Dinner at 6 p.m. Sunday, May 7. Tickets are \$75 and 100 per-

cent of all ticket sales go to the fight against hunger. Money raised will also "seed" a fresh produce rescue program.

It's hard to imagine a child's lunch without a piece of fruit or dinner without vegetables, yet in Michigan nearly 30 percent of children under age 12 are hungry or at risk. In Oakland County, a county which boasts one of the country's highest per capita incomes, 6.2 percent of the population live below the poverty line.

Detroit's Taste of the Nation culinary chair Jim Barnett will bring together more than 35 of the metro area's top chefs to participate in the nation's largest culinary benefit.

Wine chair and master sommelier Madeline Triflon has procured some exquisite wines. Live music entertainment also will be provided. Participating restaurants and colleges include Diamond Jim Brady's, Duet,

Schoolcraft College, and Sweet Lorraine's.

"Tickets can be purchased by calling Cleaners Food Bank at (313) 823-3535.

■ Quixno's - Announces the opening of a new Quixno's Classic Subs restaurant in Farmington Hills in American Falls, 3232 Northwestern Highway. Quixno's Classic Subs are served on a soft baguette, baked especially for the restaurant chain. The subs are prepared and then

run open-faced through an oven to melt the cheese and toast the bread before being served. The Farmington Hills Quixno's is open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday. Customers can order to take out or to eat in the dining room. Call (248) 926-QUIZ to place your carryout order. Quixno's also offers boxed lunches for corporate catering, and a 6-foot, 4-foot or 2-foot length subs for home or office parties. With the opening

of the Farmington Hills Quixno's there are now over 800 Quixno's restaurants open in 38 states, Puerto Rico, Canada, Japan, Central America and Australia.

■ Too Cheez - Executive Chef Greg Uphur will prepare his prix fixe Organic Vegetarian Feast 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 23. The cost is \$28 per person at Too Cheez Restaurant, 27155 Sheraton Drive, Novi. A selection of organic wines will also be available for purchase with the meal.

For reservations/information call (248) 348-8565. Too Cheez is open 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday for lunch, and 5:30-10 p.m. for dinner. Closed Sunday.

■ McDonald's - fast-food chain has introduced the McSalad Shaker - a convenient and innovative way to eating salads. It's served in a large, clear cup with a domed lid that allows customers to pour on their choice of dressing and shake it up, spreading the dressing evenly.

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