

Tango's Latin dishes 'bold, vibrant'

BY JOE BAUMAN
STAFF WRITER

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Riding the wave of popularity of the Latin music scene, the Westin Hotel and Resort group has created a special Nuevo Latino menu being featured in all of its restaurants, including Tango's at the Westin Southfield-Detroit in Southfield.

Available through the end of May, the featured selections were created by Westin corporate executive chef Steve Peterman and consulting chef Mark Miller of the famed Coyote Cafe in Santa Fe, N.M., among others.

Local diners have been slow to warm up to the Nuevo Latino dining at Tango's Executive Chef Stacie Huschen said, but those willing to try something new have not been disappointed.

"The majority of our patrons are hotel guests who are looking for something safe, like a steak," said Huschen, who received his

What: Nuevo Latino celebration
Where: Tango's at the Westin Southfield-Detroit, located at Evergreen and the Lodge Freeway in Southfield
When: Through the end of May
Details: Call (248) 728-6558
■ Mother's Day Brunch - 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 14 in the hotel's Algonquin Ballroom. Cost (not including tax and gratuity) \$29.95 adult; \$14.95 children age 12 and younger. No charge for children under age 3. Every mom will receive a fresh long stemmed rose courtesy of The Westin.
Buffet menu includes a carving station, choice of four entrees, breakfast station, salads, and desserts.

training in his native land of Germany before coming to the states 25 years ago. "The dishes offer a bold, vibrant flavor profile which are quite special."

Huschen took over as Tango's executive chef six weeks ago, after a five-year stint as executive chef at Cobo Hall. This is his second stint with the Westin group.

"At Cobo, the challenge was to prepare dinner for up to 10,000 guests," he said. "This restaurant allows much more flexibility in terms of what we can offer our

guacamole."

The brief Nuevo Latino menu offers several appetizers, including pork and plantain fritters, Chilean salmon ceviche with golden hominy and Ecuadorian shrimp and lobster ceviche.

Featured entrees include cumin-rubbed sea scallops with quinoa and fried plantains in a smoked barbecue mango sauce, and a spiced, seared strip steak with a mango mojo combining shallots, mango, garlic, orange and lime juice and spices.

A short list of Central and South American wines also are available by the glass.

Huschen said the Nuevo Latino theme is the first of a series of theme menus that will be rotated throughout the year. The next one most likely will feature a North American theme, he said.

"We have a terrific kitchen staff that has worked very hard to present these authentic dishes," Huschen said. "We need more people to come out and try something new and special."



STAFF PHOTO BY JEFFREY ZOLINSKY

Double your pleasure: Sous chefs Grant Green Jr. (left) and Stacey Short were specially trained to handle the restaurant's Nuevo Latino special menu.

Treat mom to brunch or dinner on her special day

BY RENEE SKOGULD
STAFF WRITER

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You've got the card and the flowers, but what about the dining reservations? With a bit of luck and some persuasive power, there are tables waiting.

"It's a tradition for lots of families," said Ann Barnes, reservation desk clerk, about Mother's Day at the Dearborn Inn. "The atmosphere is of old elegance. A lot of people like to dress. You feel special when you come here. We do go out of our way to make holidays special."

Whether you and mom crave caviar at the Ritz Carlton, roast pork at the Dearborn Inn, wild game at Cousins Heritage Inn or a dozen desserts at Sweet Lorraine's, start dialing now.

The following restaurants are planning special menus and extra touches for Mother's Day:

Elite

Dearborn Inn - 20301 Oakwood Boulevard (between Southfield, Expressway and Michigan Avenue), Dearborn, (313) 271-2700. Serving in three restaurants: The Early American Room buffet plus entrée 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., adults \$35; children 6-12 \$17.50, children 5 and under free. The Dearborn Ballroom grand buffet plus entrée 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., adults \$32.50, children 6-12 \$16.25, children five and under free. The Ten Eyck Tavern entrées \$13.95-\$20.95. Limited reservations.

Hyatt Regency - 18600 Michigan Avenue (near Southfield Expressway), Dearborn, (313) 982-6330. Serving 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in two restaurants: Julio's, champagne brunch, adults \$34.95, children 4-12 \$16.95, children 3 and under free. Kafay's Place, brunch, adults \$27.95, children 4-12 \$13.95, children 3 and under free.

Brunch (breakfast, lunch and dinner fare) will be served in multiple stations throughout the restaurants. Call ASAP for reservations. Note: Julio's is booked until 2:30 p.m.

Ritz Carlton - 300 Town Center, Fairlane Plaza, Dearborn, (313) 441-2000. Buffet (including caviar, seven hot entrees and waffles and omelet stations) 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Presidential Ballroom, adults \$60, children 5-10 \$19, children under 5 free.

Reservations are currently filled; however, inquire about cancellations or unconfirmed reservations.

Cousins Heritage Inn - 7954 Ann Arbor Street, Dexter (Bakery Street exit 107 off I-94), (734) 428-3020. Entrées include fish, meats, poultry and game (most likely antelope for Mother's Day) and soups. Everything homemade. All meals come with house salad, vegetable and starch, \$18-\$27. Seating at 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 6:30-9 p.m.

This is white linen and candle dining in a restored 1855 house with elegantly wallpapered rooms. The restaurant was rated fourth best in Michigan in 1999 by readers of Gourmet Magazine. Reservations ASAP.

Upscale

Mackinaw's Restaurant - 126 East Main Street, downtown Northville, (248) 348-9470. Special Mother's Day dinner menu

served 1-5 p.m. \$18.95-\$28.95. Reservations appreciated.

Novotel Hilton - 21111 Haggerty Road (off 8 Mile at I-275), Livonia, (248) 349-4000. Brunch with 30 hot and cold items (including prime rib and rack of lamb) 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom and Davinci's Restaurant; adults \$27.95, children 6-12 \$14.95, children 5 and under free. Reservations ASAP.

Cafe Cortina - 30715 W. 10 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, (248) 474-3033. Seating at 2, 4:30 and 7 p.m. Adult average menu price \$24; no children's menu but staff will accommodate.

Ernasto's - 41661 Plymouth Road, Plymouth, (313) 453-2002. Brunch served 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m.; adults \$18.95, children 6-10 \$8.95, children under 5 free. Adult dinner \$20.95.

Hawthorne Valley Country Club - 7300 Merriman Road (between Ann Arbor Trail and

Warren), Westland, (734) 422-3440. Breakfast 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Adults \$14.95, children 6-12 \$9.95, children under 3 free. Reservations still available.

Family friendly

Sweet Lorraine's at the Livonia Marriott - 17100 N. Laurel Park Drive, Livonia, Buffet \$10.95, children 6-12 \$5.50, children 4 and under free. Regular menu also available: breakfast 7-11 a.m., lunch 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., dinner 4-11 p.m. Call (734) 963-7480.

Another buffet will be served in the hotel foyer 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. that includes the Sweet Lorraine's buffet plus roast beef with red wine or horseradish sauce, roast turkey, stuffed sole, chicken and mushrooms, etc., etc. Adults \$25.95, children 6-12 \$12.95, children under 6 free. Call (734) 462-3100.

Marvin's Bistro - 15800 Middlebelt, Livonia, (734) 622-6800. Special Mother's Day menu includes prime rib, New York steaks, Marvin's stuffed filet, king crab legs, lobster tails and much more. Priced \$14.95-\$25.95. Entertainment by Wally Bilson & Co. 3-7 p.m. All mothers receive a flower.

Italian-American Club of Livonia - 39200 W. Five Mile Road, Livonia, (734) 953-9724. Family-style Mother's Day luncheon (beer, wine, pop included) 12:30-3:30 p.m. Member adults \$20, non-member adults \$25, children 6-12 \$10, children 3-5 free. Reservation deadline May 11. No tickets sold at door.

Farwell and Friends - 8051 Middlebelt (between Joy Road and Ann Arbor Trail), Livonia, (734) 421-6990. Serving mothers noon-9 p.m. Friendly atmosphere and friendly prices. Reservations appreciated.

Jack Dunleavy's Grill - 340 N. Main Street, Plymouth, (734) 455-3700. Mother's Day brunch includes ham, prime rib, turkey,

Weber's Inn - 3050 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor (take exit 172 I-94, turn left at light), (734) 397-6800. Mother's Day brunch 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. includes salads, meats, breakfast foods, luncheon buffet and a sweet table. Adults \$19.95, children 4-12 \$11.95, children 3 and under free. Reservations ASAP.

Marvin's Bistro - 15800 Middlebelt, Livonia, (734) 622-6800. Special Mother's Day luncheon (beer, wine, pop included) 12:30-3:30 p.m. Member adults \$20, non-member adults \$25, children 6-12 \$10, children 3-5 free. Reservation deadline May 11. No tickets sold at door.

Cord's - 2710 W. Seven Mile Road (between Inkster and Middlebelt), Livonia, (248) 777-4960. Mother's Day buffet includes pasta, meats, pizzas, soups, salads, desserts and much more. Adults \$13.95, seniors \$13, under 10 years \$9.95. Reservations please.

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Summit on the Park - 46000 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor (take exit 172 I-94, turn left at light), (734) 397-6800. Mother's Day brunch 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. includes salads, meats, breakfast foods, luncheon buffet and a sweet table. Adults \$19.95, children 4-12 \$11.95, children 3 and under free. Reservations ASAP.

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Fox Creek Golf Course - 36000 Seven Mile Road, Livonia, (248) 471-3400. Mother's Day Golf & Dinner, nine holes with cart, shot-gun start 11:30 a.m., and buffet dinner (chicken, Italian sausage, broasted potatoes, etc.) \$25. Reservations available. Call ASAP.

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