

Tango's Latin dishes 'bold, vibrant'

BY JOE BAUMAN
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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 at the Westin Southfield-Detroit in Southfield.

Available through the end of May, the featured selections were created by Westin corporate executive chef Steve Peterson 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 dishes, Tango's Executive Chef Siede 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 adults; \$14.95 children age 12 and younger. No charge for children under age 3. Every mom will receive a fresh long stuffed 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

guests." 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 cumarin-rubbed sea scallops with quinoa and fried plantains in a smoked barbecued mango sauce, and a spiced, seared strip steak with a mango mole combining shallots, mango, garlic, orange and lime juice and spices.

Highlighted desserts are a coconut pan dulce with cinnamon ice cream and a calabasa flan with fried plantain and ice cream.

The full-service bar is offering companion specialty drinks, including a suave margarita made with Cuervo 1800 tequila and Grand Marnier, and Fresco Nuevo, a combination of Kahlua, Grand Marnier, Cuervo tequila and cream, shaken and poured over ice.

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."



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 SNOGLUND
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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, a reservation desk clerk at 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 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:

Elegant
 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 5:30 p.m., adults \$35; children 6-12 \$17.50, children 5 and under free. The Dearborn Ballroom grand buffet plus entrée 1 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., adults \$32.50, children 6-12 \$16.25, children five and under free. The Ton Eyck Tavern entrées \$13.95-\$20.95. Limited reservations.

Hyatt Regency - 18600 Michigan Avenue (near Southfield Expressway), Dearborn, (313) 982-6850. 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 waffle 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 (Bakers Street exit 167 off I-94), (734) 428-3020. Entrees include fish, meats, poultry and game (most likely antelope for Mother's Day) and soups. Everything home-made. All meals come with house salad, vegetable and starch, \$18-\$27. Seating at 1 p.m., 3-3:30 p.m. and 5:30-6 p.m.

This is white linen and candles 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
 MacKinnon'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.

Novil Hilton - 21111 Haggerly Road (off 8 Mile at I-275), Livonia, (248) 424-0000. 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, seniors \$25.95, children 6-12 \$14.95, children 6 and under free. Reservations ASAP.
 Cafe Cortina - 30715 W. 10 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, (248) 474-3033. Seatings at 2, 4:30 and 7 p.m. Adult average menu price \$24; no children's menu, but staff will accommodate.

Ernesto's - 41661 Plymouth Road, Plymouth, (734) 453-2002. Brunch served 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m.; adults brunch \$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 6 p.m. Adults \$14.95, children 3-8 \$8.95, 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) 953-7480.

Family friendly

Sweet Lorraine's at the Livonia Marriott - 17100 N. Laurel Park Drive, Livonia. Buffet 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; adults \$18.95, 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) 953-7480.

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 5-12 \$12.95, children under 5 free. Call (734) 462-3100.

Weber's Inn - 3050 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor (take exit 172 off I-94, turn left at light), (734) 937-8800. Mother's Day brunch 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. includes salad, meats, breakfast foods, luncheon buffet and a sweet table. Adults \$19.95, children 4-12 \$11.95, children 3 and under free. Reservations ASAP.

Corrie's - 27810 W. Seven Mile Road (between Inkster and Middlebelt), Livonia, (248) 777-4960. Mother's Day buffet includes pasta, meats, pizzas, soups, salad, desserts and much more. Adults \$13.95, seniors \$13, under 10 years \$9.95. Reservations please.

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,

salmon, pasta and a zillion breakfast and desert goodies. Adults \$19.95, children 5-12 \$9.95. Reservations appreciated.

Something different

The Century Club Restaurant in the Gem Theatre - 333 Madison Avenue, Detroit (near Fox Theatre on Woodward Avenue). A la carte Mother's Day brunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 3-6 p.m., \$7.50-\$11. Entertainment: "Escapade in the Moonlight" shown 2 p.m. at \$29.50 and 6 p.m. at \$24.50. "Always ... Patay Cline" shown 1:30 p.m. at \$29.50 and 5:30 p.m. at \$24.50. Call (313) 963-9000 for tickets and reservations.

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, braised potatoes, etc.) \$25. Reservations available. Call ASAP.

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