

# G A W A Y

## A Sustaining Place

The Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort was already among the culturally aware, partnering with the Gila River Indian Community on many facets of its operations and programming.

Now, as the world's first GeoGreen resort, the property is looking at geotourism from a multi-dimensional perspective.

Traditional "green" efforts include recycling grease, composting, using hybrid courtesy vehicles and foregoing bottled water in favor of that sourced from the Gila River Indian community.

Cultural offerings include a cultural concierge, storytelling and song, and arts and crafts programs. 602-221-0100, wildhorsepassresort.com

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## DINE OUT PHOENIX

So, what do you recommend?" I ask the server and expectantly wait for his expertise on the subject.

"What do I recommend?" he repeats, looking at me as though it's the most absurd question that's ever been posed to him.

"Well, um...you know, what's good here?" I try again.

"Well that depends on what you feel like having," he replies still sounding a little incredulous that I should expect him to know what I feel like having. "If you want fish," he continues and proceeds to reel off the Fresh Ketch portion of the menu.

Wait! I don't like seafood. I cast around desperately trying to figure out what I feel like. "Chicken," I quickly blurt out scanning menu. "Is the chicken entrée good?"

"Yes."

"Or, the open-faced chicken sandwich," I point to the specials.

He nods.

"Umm, what about the Polynesian chicken sandwich, is that good?"

"Yes, that's good"

"So ah.... everything's good?" I finish a little weakly.

"Yes, everything's good."

Other people at the table are be-



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coming a little fidgety. I quickly order the last. "And, I was thinking about having soup," I start, "What do you think of the ...." I catch his look, "um nevermind, fries are fine."

Once our food turns up, I can't help but notice the chicken in my sandwich is a little dry and there isn't even any sauce or spread on it.

I also can't help but notice that one of my companions has ordered the open-faced chicken sandwich and it has arrived with the cheese bubbling on top; the veggies look really juicy and, now that I think of it, didn't the

# unlocking



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menu say something about it being toasted in a wood-burning oven.

Still, a few weeks later I've all but forgotten the lunch altogether when Pamela Swartz's updated dining guide comes across my desk. Just out of curiosity I innocently thumb through the alphabetical listing, quickly locating the restaurant in question.

Hmmm, I see that Pamela Swartz isn't afraid to voice a few preferences here and there. The Portobello sandwich with vine-ripened tomatoes sounds pretty yummy. I hadn't even noticed that there was a griddle corn cake starter; and, oh, how in the world did we walk out of there without trying the croissant bread pudding with Jack Daniels whiskey lime sauce?

I also note that Swartz squeezes extra tips throughout the book that cover just about anything. I try to imagine my reticent server's face if I had asked him if he could recommend any good shopping nearby.

Swartz even cross-references the 250 listings according to special features. I really can't wait to try out the categories. I consider setting up a high-octane business lunch with somebody so I can go to one of the "Seal-the-Deal" power scenes, or I could put off dinner 'til midnight and hit one of the "Late Night Nibblers" spots.

Perhaps, I'll arrange a sophisticated stage show followed by one of the "before and after theater" selections? And then there's vintage, romantic, cult classics ... the possibilities are endless.

—LINDSAY DECHACCO