

Outdoor Dining

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Now that the weather has cooled down, it's time to take those reservations outdoors. Here are some places with not only great menus but also can't-miss alfresco atmospheres.

Greasewood Flat



A "sorry we're open" sign hangs on the entryway of this outdoor cowboy bar and grill. Greasewood Flat was the original stagecoach stop between Fort McDowell and Phoenix. It reopened 30 years ago as a restaurant and is still run by the same family today. The restaurant offers a simple menu of burgers and dogs that come with a side of potato chips while its "wicked libations" is a claim to fame. Seating is nothing more than lined-up picnic tables around a toasty bon fire pit in the center. Live entertainment is also offered Thursday through Sunday. Greasewood Flat is open everyday 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. For more information visit www.greasewoodflat.net.

El Encanto



This indoor and outdoor cantina is comfortably nestled in Cave Creek. Everything on the menu is handmade from the freshest ingredients. Guests can enjoy one of the award-winning margaritas next to the outdoor pond, which is the home to ducks, turtles, owls and Heron. Children also have the opportunity to feed the wildlife as they await their food under the stars. The restaurant is family-owned and mission is bring the look and feel of Mexico to their guests. Many have experienced the romantic feel of this cantina, including Good Morning Arizona who awarded them most romantic restaurant in Arizona. El Encanto is open everyday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. For more information visit www.elencantorestaurant.com.

Salty Senorita



Conveniently located in Old Town, the Salty Senorita Fresh Mexican Restaurant prides itself on its relaxed vibe calling itself an "informal fiesta." This cantina offers a diverse menu, which was created by their executive chef, Jagger Griffin. Standard, lunch, kid's, Sunday brunch, happy hour and late-night menus help this establishment cater to your dining needs. Happy hour is celebrated everyday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. and you can enjoy those drink steals on their "by the sea" themed patio. The cantina opened its doors in 2003 and the fun hasn't stopped since. For more on information on their specials and events visit www.saltysenorita.com.

The VIG



Enjoy wonderful cuisine outside on The VIG's patio in Arcadia. Sit on colorful open-air couches next to the cozy fireplace or round the troops up for a friendly game for bocce ball. Sunday's guests can enjoy half-price bottles of wine all day while they listen to live music from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The VIG is open 11 a.m. to 12 a.m. Monday through Thursday and Friday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. For more information on their menu and specials visit www.thevig.us.