

## Featured Chef: Deirdre Pain

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**Featured Chef: Deirdre Pain of Malee's On Main restaurant in Scottsdale.**



*Photography by Erica Montgomery*

### **How did you get your start in the restaurant business?**

My start in the restaurant business was very serendipitous. I was a social worker for 20 years who fell in love with Thai food back in the late 70's. I was working at St. Joseph's in a program that evaluated child sexual abuse cases and infant deaths. Needless to say, I was very burnt out and was trying to figure out what to do next in my life when I decided that the Thai restaurants that I patronized were not upscale enough for the exceptional nature of the food. I decided on a whim to open a restaurant that would offer the ambiance and service that I would expect at a higher end restaurant. The rest is history.

### **What is your favorite Valley restaurant, besides your own?**

Bravo Bistro and Via Veneto in Scottsdale.

### **What is your favorite dish at your restaurant?**

Tom Ka Gai, hot and sour soup.

### **What is the most memorable meal you've ever had?**

Binkley's in Cave Creek. I don't even remember what I had, but I do remember leaving thinking that I would dream about this meal for a long time.

### **If you could have anyone visit your restaurant, who would it be?**

Maya Angelou. I find her to be such a spiritual and inspiring person who I would love to sit down and spend an evening with.

### **Name three ingredients that you have at home at all times.**

Fish sauce, chile paste and fresh herbs grown in my garden.

### **What is your favorite bottle of wine or cocktail?**

Gruner Vetlinger wine from Austria and a wonderful Kettle One Martini, shaken until misted.

### **What do you like to do in your free time?**

I love golf, cooking with friends at home, great movies at Camelview and hanging out with my children.

[Click here for more information about Malee's On Main.](#)