

Family Brunch

Written by Amanda Rumore

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Sunday Brunch, or any meal on any day, is not the same when you have kids. Once you become a mom, and unless baby is at home with a sitter, eating an actual meal in peace is merely wishful thinking. But sometimes you still want to feel normal and enjoy the things you once took for granted: atmosphere, ambiance, crowd and, of course, the menu.

When Father's Day was approaching, I knew a reservation had to be made. Not only was this my husband, Anthony's, first Father's Day but braving a crowd and chancing a high maintenance baby was still easier than prepping, cooking and cleaning (yikes!) So, what restaurants are still cool to go but also family friendly?

El Chorro, in Paradise Valley, has always been a place to be and be seen. From Sunday Brunch to noted events like Thanksgiving Eve, you know you're amongst Valley royalty at this spot. El Chorro was originally built as a school for girls in 1934 and then, in 1937, converted to a restaurant and lodge. Clark Gable, Milton Berle and other prominent figures visited the lodge in its early days and in the 1950s, the lodge became a favorite of Arizona families and local celebrities, including David Wright, son of Frank Lloyd Wright.

After reviewing their brunch menu, this seemed like the perfect place for our Father's Day.

When we arrived El Chorro was packed but we were seated immediately. The large patio equipped with misters, bar, dining room and back rooms makes it appealing for all, noting a happy mix of families and childless groups, young and old.



Our daughter, Mia Valentina, slept the entire brunch! Although I was stunned it was welcomed; I actually had a chance to talk to the man of the day without adorable baby in arms. We received the great service El Chorro is known for, mingled with friends who were also celebrating their and, ultimately, had an enjoyable afternoon.



Even if you haven't eaten at El Chorro, you may have heard about their infamous Sticky Buns. I assure you, they are even better than you imagine.

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Anthony is definitely a foodie and this special, the Surf N' Turf Eggs Benedict, was right up his alley.



Since Mia was sleeping and I had a bottle on hand if needed, I had one drink. After choosing very carefully, I decided on a summer specialty cocktail, the Lavender Lemon Drop Martini. Ketel Citroen, house grown lavender simple syrup, lemon, Chambord and lavender infused sugar rim. Once I can drink with ease, I will go back for this. Yes, it was THAT delicious.



So, not only is El Chorro a prime destination for cocktails, fine dining and events but the Sunday Brunch is great for family time. Check out their brunch any Sunday from 8am – 2pm. Reservations suggested!