

The New Crop

Tucson eateries continue to spring up in a variety of delightful ways.

BY BARRY INFUSO • PHOTOGRAPHY BY THOMAS VENEKLASEN • PHOTO ASSISTANT GABRIELA ROBLES-IBARRA

Fire + Spice

Sheraton Tucson Hotel & Suites
5151 E. Grant Road
520-321-7621
www.sheratonsuitestucson.com

Tucson Lifestyle
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For those of you who remember the Rancher's Club Or Trophies at the Sheraton Tucson near Grant and Swan, I have a treat for you.

The restaurant has been transformed into something you are sure to enjoy. You may enter Fire + Spice through the lobby, by the pool, or the west entrance of the hotel. The restaurant faces the pool and is buffered by a fire pit that creates a romantic backdrop to the subtly lit desert landscaping. In addition, the lounge features the Arizona Roadrunners Jazz Band, providing traditional jazz for your listening pleasure.

For starters, we were served an amuse bouche of avocado, dipped and lightly fried in serrano chili batter. The delicate avocado cooled the chile and the crunchy exterior added great texture to the little bites.

The dinner menu is concise and well conceived by **Executive Chef David Ferrara**. We started with the tortilla soup, thick with chicken, avocado, blue corn tortillas, tomatoes, *crema* and finished with cilantro; it was nearly a meal in itself. The table is set with herb bread that is so good you may need to ask the server to remove it, as we did in order to save room for dinner.

My wife ordered the flamed shrimp with filet mignon. Chef Ferrara prepared the shrimp with a prickly pear sauce and the filet was served with an Ancho chile and port reduction. The chile sauce was the perfect balance to the sweet, tender shrimp. The filet was cooked to perfection, with just the right amount of exterior charring to add flavor and texture. I ordered the sweet potato chile relleno, prepared with Ancho chile that is roasted and filled with chunks of sweet potato and covered with a light coating of Oaxaca cheese, served with rice and grilled vegetables.

The dessert menu is about fun, with offerings like s'mores and ice cream. If you like, you may adjourn to the fire pit for after-dinner drinks and dessert. While there, you may write down a wish, toss it into the flames and let the intention rise to the heavens. Come by for lunch or dinner, and renew your acquaintance with the hotel and its friendly staff.



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