

## SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

# Business Spotlight

## Canoe House Represents “New Concept” In Local Dining

Tiki Bar, Mai-Tais, Complement West Coast Hawaiian Flavor of South Pasadena Restaurant

By Mitch Lehman

The San Gabriel Valley is not your typical destination for coconut shrimp, ahi poke or anything called “The Big Kahuna,” but that perception is changing, according to David Yost, one of the owners of South Pasadena’s burgeoning Canoe House restaurant.

Known as Wild Thyme for two full decades to legions of loyal customers, the popular café “got tired,” said Yost.

“It had a great run,” he said. “But we felt it was time to upgrade from baking pies to mixing Mai Tais. I think people in South Pasadena wanted a full bar and a new concept. We frequently travel to Hawaii as a family and we thought we would try something a little different from a bistro or neighborhood grill. We thought we would try a Hawaiian concept. We weren’t sure if we wanted to go to a high-end restaurant, like Roy’s, or a theme concept like Islands, so we went somewhere in between.”

It’s an idea that is catching on.

“It’s a work in progress,” said Yost, who has been partners in the restaurant business with his brother-in-law Randy Hoffman since 1990. “It’s still evolving but after a shaky start, we seem to have found our niche.”

Canoe House features a wide range of selections from its five menus, which include breakfast, lunch, happy hour, dinner and bar.

Exotic dishes like lemongrass and coconut cream soup, seared rare ahi salad, short rib loco moco and kalua pork hash and eggs are served in a setting that has been described as “Hawaiian plantation,” replete with a tiki bar.

North Shore shrimp, almond crusted mahi mahi and, yes – the Big Kahuna burger – practically guarantee there is an item on the menu that everyone will love.

“You can do a whole lot with Pacific Rim fishes,” said Yost. “We are also focusing on authentic Hawaiian food, dishes that you might see on the islands. The poke fishes, spicy tuna, ahi. We are having a lot of fun creating new things.”

Canoe House features 14 beers on tap and prides itself on an extensive selection of rum



Canoe House, which replaced the popular Wild Thyme on Fair Oaks in South Pasadena, offers a unique menu that includes traditional Hawaiian dishes in a tropical atmosphere that features a mai-tai bar, outrigger, and 12 large, flat-screen televisions.

drinks.

Themed weekday specials range from “Mai-Tai Monday” (an authentic mai-tai topped off with a Myer’s dark rum float) to “Hawaiian Shirt Friday,” which gets you 15% off your check if you show up wearing a Hawaiian shirt.

Canoe House has made many friends by offering charity nights,

whereby local schools, churches and non-profits can register to get a percentage of the proceeds of purchases made by their constituents on a given evening. Information on the program can be found at canoehouserestaurant.com.

The establishment also boasts a large outdoor patio with fire-pit and the private “Paddle Room,”

which holds 35 and can be reserved for private parties.

Canoe House offers breakfast on Saturdays and Sundays with an eclectic menu (not to mention bottomless mimosas and Bloody Marys) and 12 large, flat-screen televisions make it “a great place to watch a sporting event,” in Yost’s words.

Canoe House is one of

the family’s five restaurants, which include Shakers on Fair Oaks Avenue in South Pasadena, Central Park restaurant in Pasadena, Diner On Main in Alhambra and Central Grille in Glendale – the newest addition to the fold.

Canoe House is located at 805 Fair Oaks Avenue in South Pasadena. Hours of operation are

Monday – Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.; Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Breakfast is served on Saturday and Sunday only, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information, call (626) 799-4169 or visit canoehouserestaurant.com.

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