

BEST "NEW AMERICAN" RESTAURANT

Rancho Pinot Grill

6208 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale

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Once upon a time, only women wore earrings, only men got tattoos and politicians caught with a floozie resigned in disgrace. In those days, American cuisine meant meat loaf, fish sticks and macaroni and cheese.

Those days are gone. While we're not sure that tattooed gals, guys with earrings and Don Juan in the White House represent progress, there's no doubt that the changes in American cuisine have certainly been for the better.

For proof, head over to Rancho Pinot Grill, where the talented chef will show you what "New American" fare is all about.

It's about appetizers like grilled squid with preserved lemon, lentil cakes with yogurt sauce and a salad fashioned from roasted beets, toasted almonds, French feta cheese and field greens.

It's about entrees like quail with peach chutney and Swiss chard, Maine diver scallops with Savoy cabbage, mushrooms and bacon, and veal chop with a caramelized shallot sauce.

And it's all about fresh, quality ingredients, from local organic produce to Colorado lamb.

We don't believe in mindless patriotism. But we'll salute Rancho Pinot Grill's flag anytime. After all, we're proud to be a "New American."

New Times, Best of Phoenix 1999