



X MARKS THE SPOT

SIX DESTINATION RESTAURANTS WORTH THE DRIVE

By Alison Turner

It's no secret that good food draws a following. Some restaurants have such a fervent following that people are willing to drive for miles to these destinations. Cordillera Ranch residents are lucky to have a short drive to a couple of excellent restaurants in Boerne. Others however, are a great endpoint for a road trip. Get out on the road, enjoy the crisp Hill Country weather, the fall foliage and check out these one-of-a-kind restaurants.



ARTFULLY PREPARED SHRIMP
DISH AT THE CREEK RESTAURANT



THE CREEK RESTAURANT

The Creek is a great restaurant you don't have to drive for miles to get to—though I would anyway. Located in a historic building dating back to the 1870s, The Creek has a tranquil view of the Cibolo Creek. The décor was chosen to keep the old world charm but the food is making strides to become one of the hottest destination restaurants. The management at The Creek is taking steps to develop a sustainable kitchen, already coordinating with local farmers to serve fresh herbs cut from the field the same day. Other elements at the fine casual dining establishment include staff members who have worked with the likes of Wolfgang Puck at Spago; some of the freshest and best seafood for miles; and a romantic ambiance that can't be beat.

The Creek Restaurant is located 10 miles from the gates of Cordillera Ranch. For more information, please visit www.creek-restaurant.com.

WELFARE CAFÉ

If you are looking for an off-the-beaten-path local eatery with loads of character and good food, check out the Welfare Café. Located in Welfare, Texas, this hidden treasure is a great place to take out of town guests to for a taste of local history, verdant views and great local food.

The Welfare Café, a historical landmark, was once upon a time a general store and post-office.

Nowadays, it is home to an eclectic little restaurant serving traditional German fair along with other great food with a gourmet twist. Notables on the menu, which changes seasonally, include steaks, schnitzels (including Jager schnitzel topped with a shiitake mushroom au jus), and a variety of German beers.

Welfare Café is located 21 miles from the gates of Cordillera Ranch. For more information, please visit www.welfarecafe.com.

AUGUST E'S

Purveyors of "Nouveau Texas Cuisine," August E's is adding a new twist to traditional Texas cuisine. From their traditional Continental Menus featured at lunch and dinner, to artfully crafted sushi, August E's offerings are truly varied. "Thai Tuesday" is a weekly celebration as guests are treated to the native cuisine of the Executive Chef Leu Savanh. Among August E's awards includes a Zagat Rated 2009 Extraordinary for Food with a 27 and an AAA three Diamond award.

August E's is located 50 miles from the gates of Cordillera Ranch. For more information, please visit www.august-es.com.



SUSHI FROM AUGUST E'S

LITTLE GRETTEL

Located in Boerne along the banks of the Cibolo Creek, Little Gretel offers unique old world charm. From the bright European bistro feel and the furniture imported from the Czech Republic to the Rembrandt etching integrated into the décor, the Gretel offers a unique dining experience. Veteran chef Phillip De La Plane and Czech-native Denise Mazal have cooked up a menu that integrates the New and Old Worlds. The dinner menu includes Bohemian herb roasted duck, rib eye steak and even vegetarian pasta.

Little Gretel is located 10 miles from the gates of Cordillera Ranch. For more information please visit www.littlegretel.com.

THE GROTTO GRILL AND COFFEE BAR

Nestled in Bandera, the "Cowboy Capital of the World," The Grotto is a true gem. Owner/Chef Jason Boyd creates all his meals from scratch every day. This makes for a limited menu but all meals are made fresh daily with some of the best ingredients found at farmer markets that day. Menu offerings include steaks, vegetarian offerings, pizzas, soups and salads all with a gourmet flair. The Grotto is frequented by ranchers and artists alike who are brought together by the delicious food. One thing is for sure, The Grotto is one of the Hill Country's best kept secrets. *The Grotto Grill and Coffee Bar is located 49.5 miles from the gates of Cordillera Ranch. For more information please call The Grotto at 830-796-9555.*

MAC & ERNIE'S ROADSIDE EATERY

If The Grotto is the best-kept secret, Mac & Ernie's is the Hill Country's most famous restaurant. With multiple billings on the food network including segments on Diners, Drive-ins and Dives and Bizarre Foods with Andrew Zimmern, Mac & Ernie's has truly become a destination restaurant. The staff will regale you with stories of people flying out from New York for the weekend just to try the famous cabrito burgers.

Located outside scenic Tarpley, Mac & Ernie's offers a unique dining experience. The dining facilities are at once low-tech but the finest you'll ever experience; patrons dine outside under the stars on picnic tables. On a warm summer night, the fireflies are truly a sight to behold. The simple and well-executed menu offerings compliment the facilities. Regular menu items include quail, mahi mahi, lamb chops and steak cooked to perfection.

Mac & Ernie's Roadside Eatery is located 48 miles from the gates of Cordillera Ranch. For more information, please visit www.macandernies.com. 🇺🇸



OLD WORLD DISHES ARE SOME OF THE OFFERINGS AT LITTLE GRETTEL