

# AN ALL-STAR RESTAURANT SELECTION

Visiting Phoenix to check out the All-Stars? Howard Seftel, restaurant critic for *The Arizona Republic* and *azcentral.com*, recommends a few Valley all-stars of his own.

## Kai

You've never seen anything like Kai, no matter where you're from. An extraordinary kitchen fashions regional ingredients into a memorable experience. Look for the chile-spiced goat meat torta and buffalo tenderloin with saguaro-blossom syrup. Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa, 5594 W. Wild Horse Pass Blvd., Gila River Reservation. 602-225-0100, [wildhorsepassresort.com](http://wildhorsepassresort.com).

## Barrio Cafe

This is where Mexican food turns into Mexican cuisine. Among chef Silvana Salcido Esparza's dazzling regional specialties are a slow-roasted pork dish called cochinita pibil, black mole chicken and poblano peppers stuffed with chicken, fruit and nuts. 2814 N. 16th St., Phoenix. 602-636-0240, [barriocafe.com](http://barriocafe.com).



Wrap your mouth around the Valley's best burger, creatively constructed at the Renegade Canteen in Scottsdale. MICHAEL MCNAMARA/THE REPUBLIC

## Renegade Canteen

James Beard Award-winner Robert McGrath is back in the saddle with his distinctive fare, inspired by the American West. Green chile pork, scallop corn risotto and the duo of lamb T-bone and tenderloin are knockouts. The town's best burger is here, too. The Shops at 9400 Shea, 9343 E. Shea Blvd., Scottsdale. 480-614-9400, [renegadecanteen.com](http://renegadecanteen.com).

## Vincent on Camelback

What happens when a classically trained French chef gets his hands on Southwestern ingredients? Vincent Guerithault gets a

James Beard Award, and diners get blue corn-crust sweetbreads, smoked salmon quesadillas and duck tamales with chiles and raisins. 3930 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix. 602-224-0225, [vincentoncamelback.com](http://vincentoncamelback.com).

## Fry Bread House

Fry bread just like mom used to make, if she grew up on the Tohono O'odham reservation, that is. Top this traditional Native American staple with red chile beef. Then, if you have the courage, finish up with fry bread slathered with chocolate and butter. Wow. 4140 N. Seventh Ave., Phoenix. 602-351-2345.

ALL-STAR PHOENIX DINERS

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