

DINING

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GET THE DISH WITH HENRY

Come back Wednesday when food columnist and cookbook author **Henry Fenwick** extols virtues in our Food & Drink section.



Anticipate the Don of a new day

BY HOLLY HAMLIN

Special to The Desert Sun

Just a few weeks ago, we were giving thanks that June was cooler than normal and now we're being bombarded with stories on how to beat the heat. Experts say "drink lots of water and stay out of the sun."

I know water is healthier, but I'd rather indulge in a giant margarita and no one does it better than Don Diego's in Indian Wells.

Don Diego's margaritas come in four sizes: regular, medium, grande and the eye-popping "Tower of Tequila." Don Diego's loves to say "Come for the Food — Stay for the Margaritas."

You'll find all the classics: Green Corn Tamales and Fajitas made with filet mignon, chicken, shrimp or vegetables.

If you're in the mood for Grilled Baby Back Ribs and you've only ever had them slathered with smoky sauce, you're in for a treat. Don Diego's serves them with spicy chile mango pineapple salsa. If you've got a seafood craving, check out the Grilled Lobster Enchiladas, Halibut Veracruz, Calamari or a Quesadilla bursting at the seams with juicy pieces of sauteed lobster, shrimp, cheese, roasted peppers and mushrooms. And if you're looking for something a little on the lighter side, try one of the newest items — Crab and Shrimp Salad with tomatoes, peppers, cilantro and olives in a vinegar and olive oil dressing.

One of Don Diego's most popular creations is the Citrus Salad served with mixed baby greens and topped with candied walnuts, Gorgonzola cheese and tossed with a tangy citrus dressing.

But, you don't have to wait until dinner to enjoy all of these great items. Don Diego's opens at 11 a.m. with lunch specials served until 4 p.m. daily. Priced at under \$10, break out of your boring sandwich routine and enjoy a Chipotle Chicken Wrap, a Grilled Chicken Sandwich topped with Jack Cheese or my favorite, the Three Slider Combo with one each of Shredded Beef, Carnitas and Shredded Chicken. And to give it a little extra heat, they use Chipotle Sauce, jalapenos, a dollop of guacamole and Red Pepper Sauce.

For one of the best deals anywhere, join the crowd from 3 to 6 p.m. daily and enjoy the \$1 menu featuring tacos, burritos, mini tostadas and quesadillas. And since you'll need a great drink to wash it all down, they've got that covered as well. For \$2.75, sip on an ice cold domestic beer or an imported brand for \$3.50. If you really want to spend the big bucks, \$3.95 will get you a margarita or glass of wine.



MARILYN CHUNG THE DESERT SUN

(Clockwise, from right) The Don Diego's Citrus Salad, the Grilled Baby Back Ribs, the Sizzling Chicken Fajitas, the Coctail De Camarones, the Peach Margarita, the Strawberry Margarita and Don Diego's La Especial Margarita.

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Don Diego's

Where: 74-969 Highway 111 (at Cook Street), Indian Wells

Phone: (760) 340-5588

Hours: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily; live music 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday

Reservations: taken

Online: www.dondieorestaurant.com