

and orange peel chicken, beef or shrimp, and two mini-desserts.

Chang's outposts are at the Somerset Collection, 2801 Big Beaver Road, Troy, (248) 816-8000; 17905 Haggerty Road, Northville Township, (248) 675-0066; the Mall at Partridge Creek, 17420 Hall Road, Clinton Township, (586) 263-0860; and Fairlane Town Center, 18900 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, (313) 429-2030.

**Fleming's Prime Steakhouse** (17400 Haggerty Road, Livonia, 734-542-9463; 323 N. Old Woodward, Birmingham, 248-723-0134) also has appealing dinners-for-two, and to make them even more so, a \$25 gift card for a future visit will be included in the deal. Complete dinner for two is at two levels, \$89 (blue cheese-crusted filet mignon) and \$98 (double-cut porterhouse). The accompaniments are included, right down to red velvet cake for dessert.

By their very nature, wine bars are romantic, and **Vinoteca** (417 S. Main St., Royal Oak, 248-544-6256) is no exception. It is showing off a new menu from executive chef Robert Young along with a spruced-up interior with linen-covered tables, candlelight and dark-polished wood floors. Such dishes as grilled salmon atop a crab cake, honey-glazed scallops and paella are on the menu.

### What if you happen to be a solo diner?

Not part of a duo this year? You can still have a good time on Valentine's weekend. Choose a spot with comfortable and convivial bar seating and enjoy the chef's special.

Try dining at the bar at such restaurants as **Angelina Italian Bistro** (1565 Broadway St., Detroit, 313-962-1355), where there are no less than 47 seats in addition to nine at the antipasto bar that offers a glimpse into the kitchen. Both are comfortable locations for solo diners.

Other good choices include the three-sided bar at **Bourbon Steak**, MGM Grand Detroit (1777 Third St., Detroit, 313-465-1646), where the entire beefy menu is available and the bartenders don't mind chatting – after all, it's part of the job description.

The stunning, Ron Rea-designed **Quattro Cucina Italiana** (203 Hamilton Row, Birmingham, 248-593-6060) is another notable solo spot. In fact, many people think the bar side of the room is more appealing than the more formal dining room itself, and the modern Italian menu offers everything from appetizer pizzas and spaghetti with sausage and meatballs to rack of lamb.

**Ernie's Mediterranean Room** (16655 19 Mile, Clinton Township, 586-286-8435) also offers spacious bar seating, and the Greek-dominated menu does its part. Choices include wonderful meza (small plates) including roasted eggplant salad and garlic dip, meatballs sparked with oregano and mint, lamb ribs and hot pita bread right out of the oven.

The bar at **McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant** (2650 Coolidge Highway, Troy, 248-637-6400) is completely separate from the dining room and has its own informal atmosphere, but the full menu of fresh seafood is available, including the currently popular mixed grill of shrimp, salmon and crabcake.

There's no doubt that solo diners prefer dining at the bar, but they're not alone (no pun intended). Dining at the bar is a trend that shows no signs of slowing down.