



SYLVIA RECTOR

Southgate's Mallie's tries for new burger record

BY SYLVIA RECTOR • FREE PRESS RESTAURANT CRITIC • MAY 21, 2009

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(2 of 2)

Cocktails and more

They're calling it "Return of the Cocktail Hour" at Michael Symon's Roast at the Westin Book Cadillac Detroit, but the 4-7 p.m. Monday-Friday after-work event offers more than the usual happy hour nibbles.

Five "bites" -- somewhat smaller portions of favorite Roast menu items -- are priced at \$3 each. Choose from a 5-ounce Roast burger; crispy chicken livers with polenta; a Beast of the Day taco; peppers stuffed with house-made sausage, and Michael Symon's Mac & Cheese. Drinks are \$4 for select beer and wines and \$5 for select pours. Show up Thursdays and you can get a free, removable custom-drawn tattoo. (1114 Washington, Detroit; 313-961-2500 and www.roastdetroit.com.)

Dinner and a play

A newly organized dinner-theater company is performing on Saturdays through May at Mama Mia Ristorante in Wolverine Lake, says company organizer and playwright Terry Spencer.

The play, called "Death by Karaoke," is a murder mystery-comedy featuring six actors who, at first, appear to be regular customers in the dining room.

"Parts of the play are scripted, parts are unscripted and parts are interactive," Spencer said. The play takes place before, during and after the buffet-style dinner and is suitable for everyone from school-age children to adults.

"We're just trying it on Saturdays this month to see what kind of response we get," Spencer said.

The play and meal begin at 5:30 p.m.; cost is \$24.95 per person. Reservations are requested at least 24 hours in advance so the kitchen can prepare the right amount of food. The family-owned restaurant has a casual atmosphere and the Italian food is homemade. (1403 Commerce Road, Wolverine Lake; 248-624-2648.)

A few quick bites ...

- Extending the Cinco de Mayo spirit throughout May, Café Habana in Ann Arbor (211 E. Washington) is featuring a special picante menu of spicy dishes, while Café Habana in Royal Oak (109 E. Fifth) is offering four special entrées and \$2.50-per-pint beer when ordered with those meals.

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KATHLEEN GALLIGAN/Detroit Free Press

Aaron Lyczynski, left, and Stephen Mallie of Mallie's Sports Grill & Bar in Southgate display the bun for the record-setting 150-pound hamburger the restaurant created last year. Mallie's will try for a new record on May 30 and 31.

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