

culinary | the stockyards



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hen frontdoors News The Stockyards Restaurant opened in 1947, it was at the center of the world's largest cattle feedlot.

The restaurant was destroyed by fire in 1953, and rebuilt the next year to include the 1889 Saloon that was modeled after turn of the century bars. A favorite spot for cattlemen, bankers and politicians, the restaurant grew to prominence even as cattle fortunes faded; and by the 1970s the cows and cattle pens were gone, but The Stockyards remained.

"It's Arizona's original steakhouse," says owner Gary Lasko. "The layout of the restaurant has not changed dramatically. Generally it looks very similar to how it looked in 1954."

Specializing in hand-cut aged steaks, this Arizona landmark boasts an extensive collection of Western art and photographs. The saloon retains its original hand-carved bar, cut glass chandelier and painted murals, while the dining room's warm décor includes dark woods, black tufted booths and iron chandeliers made from genuine used branding irons discovered in the basement.

"We have a great array of food but we keep it focused on steak," says Executive Chef Michael Shea. "I buy \$40,000 worth of beef every month." The steak-centric menu also features wild game, pork, poultry and many seafood options, including a wide variety of appetizers, salads and desserts.

In the age of à la carte, The Stockyards recalls a heartier time, when cattlemen crowded its leather banquettes. Dinner entrées include a relish tray, soup or salad, baking soda biscuits, cornbread muffins and choice of dessert.

"Value is the best reason to dine at The Stockyards," says the chef. "Our \$24.95 specials are a great example of this." The Stockyards' three course summer dinner specials include favorites such as blue cornmeal crusted trout, prime rib and grilled chop steak; or dine in the 1889 Saloon this summer and all \$24 entrees will be reduced to \$18.89.

To celebrate the state centennial, The Stockyards has launched an initiative to build a centennial menu as a lasting legacy. The Centennial Taste of Arizona Menu will feature famous Arizona dishes that have stood the test of time. To enter, send your home recipes and Arizona restaurant dish nominations to The Stockyards by December 2010. All participants will be entered to win a free dinner for two, and the Centennial Taste of Arizona Menu will be featured as a prix fixe item at the restaurant beginning February 14, 2011. ■

connecting

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