

RECENTLY PROFILED



The outside dining area and bar at Matchbox Vintage Pizza Bistro overlooks Palm Canyon Drive in downtown Palm Springs.

Gary Burzell/
special to
Desert Post Weekly

Match your tastes with your mood at bistro

In a second-floor spot overlooking Palm Canyon Drive across from The Falls Steakhouse, Matchbox Vintage Pizza Bistro offers an upscale dining option for the Palm Springs downtown corridor.

The atmosphere is definitely casual, with a relaxed attitude, when it comes to dress.

The menu, though, is serious food, filled with speciality pizzas, appetizers, sandwiches, salads, entrees and desserts with enough diversity to make diners want to come back and try something different each time they visit.

While the main bar is the center of the action — with its hand-picked selection of hard liquors, wines and dozen microbrews on tap — the main room offers a more organic atmosphere for relaxed dining with its interior of weathered barn wood, brick arches and planter boxes, raised booths, intimate tables and a large two-faced fireplace.

The pizzas are baked in an 800-850 degree wood-fired brick oven, and the scent of baking dough, sauce and toppings wafts gently through the restaurant to the back of the dining room.

Try one of the speciality pies (\$12-\$14 for a 10-inch or \$18-\$20 for 12-inch) or design your own, with a selection of toppings and sauces from zesty tomato to virgin olive oil.

Some customers make a meal by ordering several appetizers, like a platter of sliders (\$7, \$12 or \$15 for 3, 6 or 9 of the mini hand-formed Angus burgers on brioche rolls with pickles and potato straws);

duck confit spring rolls (\$13); mozzi carozzi (\$9), Italian bread with fresh mozzarella, roma tomatoes and fresh basil, deep fried with tomato sauce and pecorino cheese.

The dinner entrees include crispy skinned Onaga snapper (\$22) with charred pineapple, basil salsa and avocado butter; chargrilled New York strip steak (\$24); bistro crabcakes (\$23) in a crispy phyllo dough over wilted spinach; and dijon crusted pork chop (\$22) with mashed sweet potato, dried cherry compote and balsamic reduction.

— *Judith Salkin*

MATCHBOX VINTAGE PIZZA BISTRO

155 S. Palm Canyon Drive, second floor
Palm Springs

Hours: 11 a.m.-1 a.m. daily

Credit cards: Visa, Mastercard, American Express,
Discover

Children's service available although there is no
children's menu

Pizzas: plain, \$10 and \$16; toppings, \$1-\$2

Speciality pizza: large, \$18-\$20

Bistro entrees: rigatoni,
\$15 to Bistro crabcakes, \$23

Take out service available

Reservations: parties

of six or larger

(760) 778-6000