

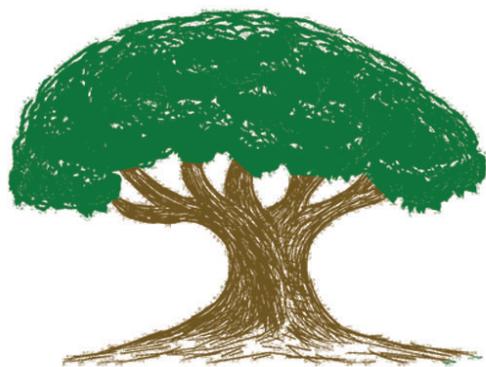
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## New restaurant Cocina El Girasol serves up a true taste of Mexican and Latin cuisine

By Steve Coulter  
Co-Publisher

A new restaurant specializing in authentic Mexican and Latin-inspired dishes is now open at 342 S. Mustang Rd.

Cocina El Girasol has a huge menu and they pride themselves on bringing quality authentic cuisine to the area.

“Our food is very authentic. Everything that is on the menu I eat at home everyday. It’s very authentic and taste real good,” said Cocina El Girasol Operator Pedro Martinez.

The new restaurant serves nachos, tacos, quesadillas, enchiladas, burritos, fajitas, guisos, ribeye, carne asada, Salvador style pupusas , fresh oysters and various seafood options.

“This isn’t typical bland Tex-Mex. This is the real deal folks and it’s very good. Took the family in the evening to try it out. This is a new small local business and you definitely want to give them a try. If you like some spice try the pork Guiso de Puerco. Fajitas were huge portions and so good. My kid says it’s his new favorite place,” said Customer Sara Fogarty.

Cocina El Girasol has a kids menu and they serve aguas frescas non-alcoholic beverages. They are currently in the process of getting their liquor license.

Martinez says a very popular Mexican dish is Quesabirrias. He says it’s been a growing trend over the past year.

“We have Quesabirrias on the weekends. Quesabirrias have been all over social media and all over the U.S. this past year or so. Birria is a Mexico food staple but once it came across the border, everyone has been using it for different recipes. Some cooks are now making birria tamales. Quesabirrias is a taco with birria meat and melted cheese with birria broth dipped in a fried tortilla. The customer also dips each bite of the completed taco in the broth that accompanies the plate as a



Cocina El Girasol new restaurant specializing in authentic Mexican and Latin-inspired dishes is now open at 342 S. Mustang Rd. PHOTO PROVIDED



side,” he said.

Save room after dinner. The restaurant also serves a variety of tasty looking desserts. They have cheesecakes and different types of cakes.

Martinez says they are excited to serve the community and the response has been good.

“A lot of people are starting to find out about us. The environment and the service is real good. We are staying very busy,” he said.

Cocina El Girasol is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. To go orders are welcome.