

Exclusive: THE I.E.'S HOT 100 RESTAURANT LIST

INLAND EMPIRE

THE REGION'S PREMIER MONTHLY

MAY | 2012

BEYONCÉ

HOW SHE BECAME POP MUSIC'S BIGGEST STAR

THE GREAT NORCO BANK SHOOTOUT 30 YEARS LATER

10 COOL NEIGHBORHOODS

WHERE PEOPLE LOVE TO LIVE RIGHT NOW

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GREAT THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

TOP TACOS FOR CINCO DE MAYO

The Beauty Issue

What To Do Now, What To Do Next

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CRAZY FOR CUPCAKES

An old favorite makes a big comeback as shops and bakeries turn out single-serving cakes in tempting flavors. **By Tammy Minn**

Not since Hostess squiggled its signature white line of frosting on a pair of tasty chocolate treats and sealed the package have cupcakes been so popular. Of course, these individual desserts show up on bakery menus, but now entire shops dedicated to them are popping up throughout the region. A trend toward small bites could be the reason, but regardless of why, the versatile cupcake is thriving. In Riverside, Casey's Cupcakes at the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa was recently opened by Casey Reinhardt, stepdaughter of the Inn's owner Duane Roberts. The choices—Decadent Dark Chocolate, Rockin' Red Velvet, and Caribbean Coconut—were inspired by the hours Casey spent as a child making cupcakes with her great-grandmother. Another cupcake shop, Jus Minis of Riverside, recently won the "Best Overall" cupcake in the 2010 Nesquik Cupcake Challenge for its caramel banana cupcake, created by owner Justin Polacek, 19. Brother Matt, who co-owns the bakery, says Justin has been perfecting cupcakes for years. You'll find other cupcake spots throughout the region, including Sugar Tart Desserterie and Tasteful Cakes in Corona, Doleissimo in Chino Hills, Sweetnillas Cupcakes in Temecula, and Some Crust Bakery in Claremont.



CASEY'S CUPCAKES
at Riverside's Mission
Inn Hotel & Spa



CHEF LEAH DI BERNARDO
of Slow Food
Temecula

food & wine events

CAL POLY POMONA TASTING & AUCTION May 2 Cuisine samples, wine tasting, music, entertainment, auctions. W.K. Kellogg Rose Garden and Aratani Japanese Garden. 3801 W. Temple Ave., **Pomona**. 1-4 p.m. Tickets \$90 (\$75 by March 31); must be 21 or older. (909) 869-4731 or polytaste.com

WINE TASTING May 7 Wineries include Caymus, Galleano, Jordan, Silver Oak and Summerland. Benefits Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center. DoubleTree Hotel, 222 N. Vineyard Ave., **Ontario**. 6-10 p.m. Tickets \$100. (909) 865-9139.

A TASTE OF RIVERSIDE May 15 Tasting event features University Avenue eateries. Bobby Bonds Park, 2060 University Ave., **Riverside**. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. \$25. Also 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Backyard Bash with entertainment and Kids Zone; rides \$1 ticket or \$10 wristband. Benefits seven area charities. (951) 328-8284.

LOBSTERFEST May 15 Maine lobster and steak dinner. Music, live and silent auctions, drawing. Benefits Corona Rotary youth programs. Fender Museum, 365 N. Main St., **Corona**. Doors open 5:30 p.m.; dinner 7 p.m. Tickets \$75 advance, \$85 at the door. (951) 735-3266.

PRIMAVERA IN THE GARDENS May 16 Taste gourmet food and wine in the UC Riverside Botanic Gardens. Silent auction includes garden-related items. 900 University Ave., **Riverside**. 2-5 p.m. Tickets \$50 advance, \$60 at gate. (951) 784-6962.

PORTS & HANDMADE CHOCOLATES May 19 Pair port wine with handmade chocolates. The Edge, 28544 Old Town Front St., **Temecula**. (951) 506-3313.

TASTE OF THE IE May 21 Food and wine event includes Pacific Wine Merchants, Dale Bros. Brewery, Mariscos Los Cabos, The Local Baker, Finish Line from Fairplex and more. Benefits Upland charities. Held in Downtown **Upland**. 6-9 p.m. Tickets \$30. (909) 204-4465.

FIELD TO THE FORK May 22 Slow Food Temecula presents wine, beer, and gourmet food from local providers. Leonesse Cellars, 38311 De Portola Rd., **Temecula**. 3-7 p.m. Tickets \$50 advance, \$60 at door. temeculavalleyslowfood.org

MI CASA ES SU CASA May 23 Wine tasting, appetizers, music. Benefits Claremont Community Foundation and Claremont Educational Foundation. Hotel Casa 425, 425 W. First St., **Claremont**. 5-8 p.m. Tickets \$75. (909) 398-1060.

RUM NIGHT May 26 Explore food and rum drink pairings. The Edge, 28544 Old Town Front St., **Temecula**. (951) 506-3313.

NICKY'S WEEK May 30-June 5 RA Sushi fundraiser for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital; proceeds from select menu items benefit St. Jude's. RA Sushi is located at Promenade Shops at Dos Lagos in **Corona** and The Shoppes at **Chino Hills**. RASushi.com

PHOTOGRAPHY: TRINA GONZALEZ



Casey Reinhardt

CASEY'S CUPCAKES

3649 Mission Inn Ave.
Riverside
951.341.6749
www.caseyscupcakesandcappuccinos.com

Coconut and Scrumptious Cinnamon Sugar. Casey's vision for the intimate 500 square foot space was inspired by old-fashioned Parisian bakeries with a Hollywood twist and flirty touches. It really is a memorable experience for guests and locals to enjoy scrumptious cupcakes and sweet treats at Casey's Cupcakes.

Casey's Cupcakes features scratch-baked cupcakes, delectable Italian-style cappuccinos, beautiful gifts and fun candies. The scrumptious cupcakes are priced at \$3.50 and store hours are: 6:00 am – 9:00 pm seven days a week. For birthday parties, bridal showers and girlfriends getaways book Casey's Princess Cupcake Parties and Casey's Cupcake Inspired Spa Parties for a wonderful celebration.

Casey has always been passionate about business, charitable causes, and her modeling and acting career. In 2002 Casey founded The C.A.S.E.Y Foundation, Children's Alliance for the Success and Education of Youth in need. She has also made significant accomplishments in her acting career starring on one of MTV's highest rated shows "Laguna Beach: The Real Orange County."

For more information on Casey's Cupcakes visit www.caseyscupcakesandcappuccinos.com and for more information on Casey Reinhardt visit www.caseyreinhart.com. For more information on The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa, visit www.missioninn.com

CASEY REINHARDT, THE daughter of Kelly and Duane Roberts, owners of The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa, was inspired by her great-grandmother's homemade cupcakes and wanted to bring the whimsical flavors of her childhood to the guests of The Mission Inn and Riverside locals alike with Casey's Cupcakes. Opened in late 2009, the new confections boutique is a great addition to the popular historic hotel and Casey couldn't be more excited about the effect it has had in the community.

Casey was four years old when her Great Grandma gave her one of the most lovely, luscious cupcakes that she made from scratch. It is Casey's pleasure to hand guests of The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa and Riverside locals the only cupcakes from her Great Grandma's irresistible recipes. Each one mixes love with the freshest ingredients to make the perfect treat.

The sweet treats come in 12 delicious flavors from *Decadent Dark Chocolate* and *Vivacious Vanilla* to *Caribbean*

