

rated

vegas rated magazine

*Summer
in the City*



Try the "famously therapeutic" chilaquiles at Border Grill.

DINE



THREE SQUARES

THREE MEALS TO MAKE YOU SAY !OLÉ!

BREAKFAST

MACHACA CHILAQUILES, BORDER GRILL

The brunch at Border Grill is one of the city's best weekend deals, especially if you've tied one on the night before. Each item on the all-you-can-eat menu is made to order, so you don't even need to get up to retrieve food, it comes right to you. The *chilaquiles* at Border Grill are famously therapeutic: crispy tortilla chips simmered and topped with slow-cooked *machaca* (beef brisket, lots of gooey cheese, green chilies and eggs cooked however you like). \$35, brunch, Saturdays and Sundays, in Mandalay Bay, 702.632.7403; mandalaybay.com

LUNCH

POLLO SABANA TORTAS, PINK TACO

Overlooking part of the infamous Hard Rock Hotel pool, Pink Taco recently introduced its own unlimited brunch that is as festive as the party atmosphere. The regular menu's *sabana de pollo*, a thinly pounded chicken breast smothered with beans, cheese, onions and a roasted Serrano chili, gets lunch-sized as a torta. \$7.50, *Pollo Sabana Tortas*; \$25, brunch, in Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, 702.693.5000; hardrockhotel.com

DINNER

VAMPIRO, TACO Y TACO

The off-Strip locals favorite is the first place I've ever seen "vampiro" on the menu, but I'm pretty sure it doesn't have anything to do with Mexican bloodsuckers. Instead, the vampire is a cross between a quesadilla and a sandwich, in which crispy tortillas serve as the vehicle for cheese and fillings such as asada, al pastor or pollo (or even more nefarious offal such as *lengua*, *cesos* or *buche*). Oh, wait, all the meat. I get it now. \$3.25, 3430 E. Tropicana Ave., 702.331.3015; 9470 S. Eastern Ave., 702.749.7091 —GRACE BASCOS

DON'T MISS

Now Through June 30

For a Parisian take on a backyard BBQ, get a burger and a cocktail for \$18 (or a burger and two beers for \$19)—with oysters at \$1.25 each—at *Comme Ça*. Shucks, yeah. *Brasserie, Burgers and Oysters series, Wednesdays, 5:30–8 p.m., Comme Ça, The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas; commecarestaurant.com*

May 8–11

The eighth annual *Vegas Uncork'd* by *Bon Appétit* includes more than 30 events, from Dinnertime Decadence With Guy Savoy to Burgers, Beers and Boozy Shakes with Mario Batali. *Aria, Bellagio, Caesars Palace, MGM Grand and The Venetian; vegasuncorked.com*

May 10

The second annual *OHANA FESTIVAL* boasts bountiful *ono grinds* (great food) and Pacific Islander culture. *Springs Preserve, \$5 adults, \$3 kids; 10 a.m., 333 S. Valley View Blvd.; springspreserve.org*

May 17, 19

At Tivoli Days, *MIDNIGHT SALSA UNDER THE STARS* (May 17, 8 p.m.–midnight) features a live salsa band, dancing and a cash bar from Cantina Laredo. Or, put day drinking to good use at the *GET HAPPY FOR CHARITY PUB CRAWL* (May 19, 1–8 p.m.). All Tivoli restaurants will serve happy hour, with the first pour at View Wine Bar & Kitchen and the last at Leone Café. *Tivoli Village, 440 S. Rampart Blvd.; tivolivillagelv.com*

May 19–31

Forget American Craft Beer Week. Nevada goes all out with 13 tap-filled days of parties, fests and tastings at *NEVADA BEER WEEKS*. *Multiple locations; nevadabeerweeks.com*

May 22

More than 75 of the city's top eateries prepare and serve signature dishes poolside at The Palazzo at the *LAS VEGAS EPICUREAN AFFAIR*. Proceeds benefit the Nevada Restaurant Association's education programs. *nvrestaurants.com*

May 31

BREWS & BLUES FESTIVAL promises the perfect start to summer, with "red-hot blues" and "ice-cold brews."

\$35 in advance \$40 day of, 4 p.m., *Springs Preserve, 333 S. Valley View Blvd.; springspreserve.org*

Now Open

CARLO'S BAKERY signature pastry—the "lobster tail"—is available for (local) eating now that Buddy "Cake Boss" Valastro brought his New Jersey-born operation to the left coast. *Carlo's Bakery, The Palazzo; bakeshop.carlosbakery.com*

New "yep—that's-real-grass" outdoor space joins Downtown's cool concrete at *BIER GARTEN*. Brats, brew and picnic-style seating complement watching sports on screens outside. *The Plaza Hotel, 1 S. Main St.; biergartenlv.com* —JEN CHASE



BORDER GRILL: ANTHONY MAIR