

"...a contemporary American menu that hits all the right notes"

-Rocky Mountain News
March, 2008

bliss
CAFE

**New Menu
Full Bar**

**Try Our New Sidewalk Patio!
1/2 Price Happy Hour**

3-6 pm - Monday thru Friday

7501 Grandview Ave - Olde Town Arvada



www.theblisscafe.com 303.423.7770

feature

Sandoval's La Sandia sings!

By Jerry L. Wheeler

Famed Spanish-Mexican tenor Placido Domingo and award-winning restaurateur Richard Sandoval have more in common than hard work and a love for Mexican cuisine. They have La Sandia (The Watermelon), a self-described Mexican kitchen. In fact, they have two of them – one in Northfield Stapleton and the recently opened branch in the Vistas at Park Meadows.

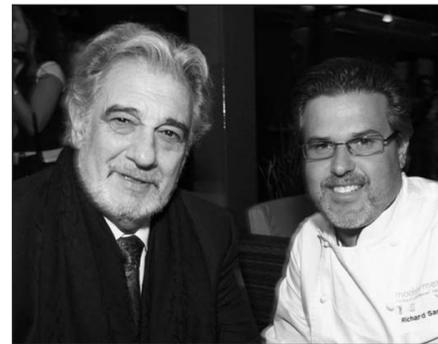
"La Sandia," Domingo explains, "is in the malls where you go shopping, and when you're shopping you get hungry, so any time of the day it's available to people. It's very good food at a very good price."

In addition to his other two restaurants in Denver, Tamayo and Zengo, Sandoval boasts establishments in Las Vegas (Isla), New York City, San Francisco and Dubai (Maya) and Mexico City and Acapulco (Pampano), spreading Modern Mexican Cuisine throughout the world. And what is Modern Mexican Cuisine?

"My goal," Sandoval states, "is to share true Mexican cuisine with Americans – to showcase the diversity and breadth of Mexican ingredients and creativity." Pairing indigenous Mexican ingredients with European culinary techniques, Sandoval transforms classic Mexican dishes into truly transcendent fare. But enough of the press release language – what does this mean on the plate?

It means starting your culinary adventure with something like Duck Carnitas Sopos (slow-cooked Maple Leaf Farm duck, corn masa cakes, Cotija cheese, black bean puree and crema fresca), Rock Shrimp Ceviche, hearty Beef & Chorizo Empanadas with chile chipotle sauce or Chicken Flautas. But don't eat too much – you still have Roasted Corn Soup or a Chile Crusted Tuna Salad to go before you get to your entree.

And what entrees they are! If you're hungry for tacos, try the Chicken Tinga or the Tacos Baja with battered tilapia, chipotle aioli, pico de gallo and Mexican slaw.



Placido Domingo and Richard Sandoval

Looking for more traditional dishes? You can choose from Cheese Enchiladas made with Oaxaca, Chihuahua and Gouda, Chicken Mole Poblano with pan roasted Red Bird Farm chicken breast, mole poblano and fried plantains and a lightly battered Chile Relleno stuffed with three cheeses and sauteed vegetables among other items.

What's Mexican food without margaritas? Well, you won't find out at La Sandia. They have everything from prickly pear-blueberry to spicy orange to traditional, and if you're feeling tropical, try their lime, passion fruit, guava, mango or strawberry margs.

But it's really all about the chow at La Sandia. "I love Mexican food because I grew up in Mexico," says Domingo, "and I love the restaurant idea because my grandmother ran a restaurant in Santa Rosa, Spain. I never met her, but she was a very avant-garde lady. She used to drive her own car in 1915, when my father was eight years old. She had this restaurant, and one day I went there with my wife and children. My children were playing in the restaurant and I thought 'One day I want to run a restaurant.' So now it has happened."

And you can make it happen, too – at La Sandia in Northfield or at the Vistas at Park Meadows. Come hungry. ■

For more information, menus or a schedule of events at any of Sandoval's restaurants, visit www.modernmexican.com.

Las Margaritas

Restaurants & Cantinas

Have a drink
on us!

Cheers to
the Holidays!

Trade this ad for your choice of a **FREE** House Margarita, Draft Beer or Soda on your next visit to **Las Margaritas!**

One ad per person per visit, with valid adult ID. Not valid with other offers. Expires December 30, 2008.

Uptown Denver: 1035 E. 17th Ave. 303.830.2199

Belmar: 6981 W. Alaska Drive 303.777.0194

View our menus at www.LasMargs.com



Simply Fabulous Food & Great Margaritas

TASTE OF THAILAND

Family owned and operated since 1994 and still winning after all these years ...

Hearty Lunches
from \$6.95

"BEST THAI FOOD" 2006 & 2007
Rocky Mountain News
"BEST THAI RESTAURANT" 2007
Channel 7 A-List

Savory Dinners
from \$8.95

Now Serving Nutritious,
Delicious Spicy
"Flu Shot" Soup



"Featuring delicious GLUTEN FREE dishes"

WWW.TASTEOTHAILAND.NET

504 E. Hampden Ave. (Right across from the Swedish Hospital) Reservations 303-762-9112