

Eats, Etc.

A quick glance at three local eateries that you may or may not already know about.



The Winter Kale salad serves as a refreshing entree at The Seasonal Palate.

PHOTO BY ANTONIO RAMON/JATM

Artful. Simple. Clean. These three words, dashed atop her website, nail the philosophy—The Seasonal Palate has something for everyone and every diet.

Owner Kimberley Calvo's culinary adventure launched in a similar way as that of many contemporary restaurateurs these days—in a food truck. A few years ago, The Seasonal Palate was likely the only unmarked truck around town—no branding, no splash, just solid eats from a friendly personality. "My following was strictly by word of mouth," Calvo says. "Honestly, I figured I'd sell the truck at some point, and I didn't want to complicate that by removing a branding wrap." Her premonition proved fruitful. About six months into her foray, Calvo's cater-

ing business overwhelmed the mobile effort. "The truck just sat. I was booked with events, so I knew the next step was a [brick-and-mortar] space."

She found that space for lease at Journal Center, previously a Dos Hermanos location. It had the basic layout for her catering needs along with enough seating area for a decent lunch crowd, and she jumped at the chance, she says.

Based on previous experience, she knew she had some crowd favorites: the buffalo burger, fish 'n chips, falafel, Asian salad, and the shrimp Po' Boy were big sellers. "I expanded the menu. I added a winter kale salad as an entree, a garden burger, a soup of the day and daily specials," says Calvo. The result? "We get about 60 percent return customers, 40

percent new. And with catering, we ended 2015 far ahead of expectations," she says.

In late spring, Calvo plans to try another concept: dinner entrees prepared to-go; simple meals to pick up and devour at home. A beer and wine license is in the works, and she hasn't given up her event presence, yet. Anasazi Fields winery, in Placitas, will feature Calvo's fresh fish, roasted chicken, and inspired meats all year long. —HOWIE KAIBEL

THE SEASONAL PALATE

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Hours:

Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.