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Restaurant openings  
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### Things to do

**Wednesday Wine Night**  
@ Whole Foods Chandler,  
Wed, May 9 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

**Wednesday Wine Tasting**  
@ D'Vine Bistro, Wed, May 9  
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

**Taste of Romeo's Dinner**  
@ Romeo's Euro Cafe, Thu,  
May 10 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

**Friday Beer Class**  
@ Whole Foods Chandler, Fri,  
May 11 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Tucson IPA Tasting**  
@ Papago Brewing, Mon, May  
14 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Quench Wine Tasting**  
@ Wedge & Bottle, Wed, May  
16 12:00 AM - 7:00 PM

**Wednesday Wine Night**  
@ Whole Foods Chandler,  
Wed, May 16 5:00 PM -  
9:00 PM

**Wednesday Wine Tasting**  
@ D'Vine Bistro, Wed, May  
16 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

**Oskar Blues Koozie Night**

December 28, 2011

### Notable newcomers: The top 10 new East Valley restaurants in 2011

As we count down the last couple days of December, it's time to unveil my annual list of the East Valley's best new restaurants.

Favorites like **Spinato's**, **Paletas Betty**, **Oregano's**, **U.S. Egg** and **Rancho de Tia Rosa** all opened additional E.V. locations in 2011, but I don't consider these "new" restaurants. The same goes for places like **Amalfi Pizzeria**, a spinoff of **Miele's** with mostly the same menu.

One other disclaimer: Restaurants less than a year old typically remain works in progress, so in some respects this list is based as much on potential as on current status.

That said, here, in no particular order, are my top 10 restaurants that opened in the East Valley in 2011:

#### BLD



1920 W. Germann Road, Chandler  
480-779-9646  
[blchandler.com](#)

This casual neighborhood eatery from Robert and Danielle Morris and chef Brian Peterson – the trio behind Chandler fine-dining gem **Cork** – offers breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, hence its abbreviated name. Breakfast fare, served until 2 p.m., ranges from the traditional (butter-milk pancakes, biscuits and gravy) to the non-traditional (breakfast meatloaf, chorizo

Joe sandwich), as do lunch and dinner offerings. In a hurry? There's a drive-through for coffee drinks, smoothies and protein shakes.

#### House of Brews



825 S. Cooper Road, Gilbert  
480-792-1945  
[azhouseofbrews.com](#)

Taking over a space previously occupied for years by **Uncle Bear's** and then, briefly, **Sky Box Sports Grill**, Matt Smitherman and Frank Poggi kept the TVs for watching sports but gave the food menu and beer list a major upgrade. Items like made-from-scratch chilis and stews, freshly ground burgers and hand-cut fries are complemented by 24 beers

on tap and another 30-plus in bottles. Save room for Javier's Southwestern Banana Split (sliced bananas and chocolate chips in a deep-fried tortilla).

#### Herb 'n Flavors

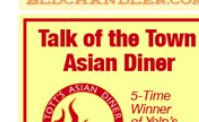
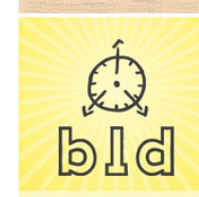


1845 E. Broadway Road, Tempe  
480-967-2789  
[herbnflavors.net](#)

Tunisia-born Saber Rouin, better known as "**Doctor Hummus**" for his line of homemade hummus, has put down roots with a Mediterranean-themed restaurant in Tempe. It's no surprise the longtime fixture at Valley farmers markets uses a lot of locally grown and/or organic ingredients, and offers locally roasted coffee and locally made desserts. The

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Questions? Contact Jess Harter at [jess@mouthbysouthwest.com](mailto:jess@mouthbysouthwest.com)