

MAKEOVER U: HOW ASU SHED ITS PARTY SCHOOL REP

MEET the BILLIONAIRE LINKED to ARIZONA'S OPIOID CRISIS

LAND 'ZO! CHECK OUT OUR NEW! DEVELOPMENT PAGE! pg.35

# PHOENIX

# 2018 WHERE to Eat

INCLUDING

**10 FRESH FOOD TRENDS IN THE VALLEY**

The  
*Best New*  
RESTAURANTS  
of 2017  
+  
*Sneak*  
PREVIEWS

PLUS  
**Our Critic's Favorite  
AZ Food Town**  
(Hint: It ain't Scottsdale)

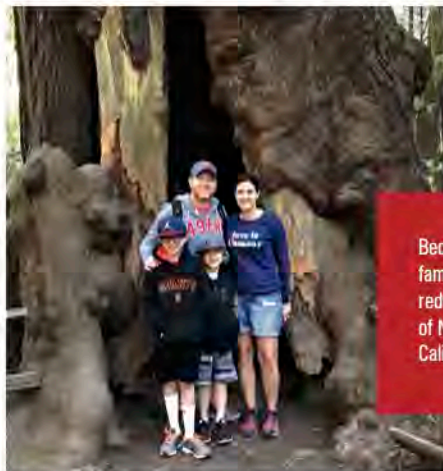


# TRAVEL BAG

NEWS, TIPS AND TIDBITS FROM THE WORLD OF ARIZONA TRAVEL – AND BEYOND.

JUST BACK FROM...

## SAN FRANCISCO WITH JUSTIN BECKETT



Beckett and family in the redwoods of Northern California

**CHEF JUSTIN BECKETT** takes at least one or two trips a year to San Francisco. As someone who's conquered 24 restaurants in 36 hours during "eat-a-thons" in the city, Beckett knows some fantastic food spots. "I'm a little weird; I don't go for the \$300 dinner... We like to eat simple foods," Beckett says. After years of traveling with his wife and two kids, the owner of Beckett's Table and Southern Rail has racked up a handful of family-friendly foodie destinations.

### TARTINE BAKERY & CAFE

Beckett makes sure to stop by **Tartine Bakery** every time he's in San Francisco. He orders "one of everything," which includes chocolate croissants, croque monsieur, cheese bread and morning buns. If you enjoy a cup of coffee with your breakfast, get ready for a caffeine overload. Beckett says

Tartine's coffee is served in a "small bowl" that is a "two-hand coffee cup experience."  
[tartinebakery.com](http://tartinebakery.com)

### GORDO TAQUERIA

As an avid lover of burritos, Beckett knows exactly where to go to satisfy his cravings in the Bay Area. **Gordo Taqueria's** "super" burritos are large enough to cut in half and save a portion for tomorrow. Beckett says it's a "delayed inevitability" that you'll finish the second half that night. Gordo also has a variety of tacos and quesadillas.  
[gordotaqueria.co](http://gordotaqueria.co)

### BAR CRUDO

If you find yourself in the Lower Haight, Beckett recommends **Bar Crudo**, which specializes in fresh seafood and raw food. Beckett suggests a bowl of the "famous" chowder. "[Bar Crudo] is salt of the earth [and] delicious," he says. It's perfect for anyone craving a taste of the sea.  
[barcrudo.com](http://barcrudo.com)

### CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Whether you have kids or are just a kid at heart, Beckett says the **California Academy of Sciences** is an unforgettable experience. The exhibit is a four-story dome that replicates a rainforest. More than 1,600 animals live there, including an albino alligator Beckett's kids loved. The steamy tropical enclave in the cool, foggy city will make you feel like you got two trips for the price of one.  
[calacademy.org](http://calacademy.org)

— Savannah Yaghseizian

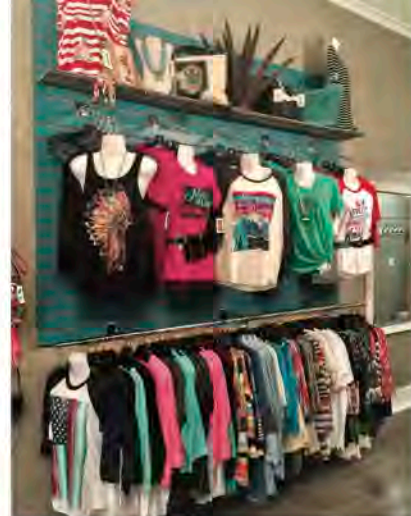
### BAG BITES

**O'DOWD IN EFFECT:** Chef Michael O'Dowd's reconceived menu at Cress on Oak Creek at L'Auberge de Sedona is finally live. Known as one of the Valley's most innovative chefs during his decade-long tenure at the Native American dining legend Kai, O'Dowd has been busy in his food lab since joining the storied resort in spring 2017. Sample dishes from the new menu: marcona almond-dusted sweetbreads with Crow's Dairy goat cheese and burnt pineapple; an heirloom tomatoes, pickled strawberries and beets medley with "spiced pecan soil"; and a "water and earth" buffalo/ahi tartare with quail egg and saguaro blossom sap. Yes, please. [lauberge.com](http://lauberge.com)

**CANYON PRIDE:** As if we needed another reason to love our state's signature geological marvel... Trip Advisor named Arizona's Grand Canyon South Rim the No. 1 top U.S. attraction for the fall. The ranking was based on a 45 percent year-over-year rise in online search activity. No. 2 on the list: Ryman Auditorium in Nashville. Huh?

**AMPED FOR GLAMP:** California's Big Sur is back on the field after mudslides choked off access to the coastal redwood region last winter. Also reopening: Ventana Big Sur, the iconic forest resort that used the downtime to undergo a facelift, and add 15 safari-style tents with "luxury amenities," including a bath house. [ventanabigsur.com](http://ventanabigsur.com)

— Craig Outhier



**NEW AROUND TOWN**

### WILLCOX

The late "Arizona Cowboy" Rex Allen's hometown is updating its Western roots for a new era.

### WILLCOX COMMERCIAL CO.

This general store opened on Railroad Avenue in 1880, when Willcox was but a whistle-stop on the Southern Pacific Railroad. Town lore claims Apache leader Geronimo shopped for supplies there, surely a sight to see. The shop had a good run: It lasted until 2013, when recession ripples led to its demise. This past October, new owners Mark Phillips (winemaker at nearby Golden Rule Vineyards), John Oberreuter and Brenda Hansen revamped and reopened the joint, stocking it with Western clothing, jewelry and art.  
**180 N. Railroad Ave., 520-384-2448**

### AMARILLO BY MORNING

You wouldn't know it by looking at the racks and stacks of cowgirl-chic tanks, T-shirts, sweaters, wraps, jeans, jewelry, purses and candles, but this ladies' boutique (pictured) was once a barbershop frequented by outlaws and lawmen, including Arizona Ranger Billy Speed, who was immortalized in the Marty Robbins song "Big Iron." Willcox fashionista April Denny bought the place two years ago and commenced feminization.  
**104 N. Railroad Ave., 520-507-0308**

### WEST FEST AND CHUCK WAGON COOK-OFF

When in a cowboy town, eat like a cowboy at this annual event dedicated to Wild West cookery. In addition to chuck wagon vittles, attendees can watch demonstrations on how to brand cattle, load a mule or ride a horse. Cap off the event – held in late April/early May; dates TBD at press time – with the Ranch Rodeo, with real cowboys from local ranches vying for the top buckaroo slot.  
[willcoxchamber.com](http://willcoxchamber.com)

— Leah LeMoine