



# SECOND COURSE

**Restaurant Week cooks up another serving**

Written by **Betts Griffone** • Photo by **Gabriel Luis Acosta**

Chefs Frank Shimazu, left, Brein Clements, Leone Palagi, Matthew Sramek, Cesar Castillo and Luis Martinez.

**I**T'S ALL ABOUT THE SENSES. Food and the arts — the synergy between them is perfect — and in Riverside, they've found a way to pair them to benefit everyone.

Fine Dining Riverside, an association of seven leading restaurants, has partnered with the arts community to provide the sights and sounds, the tastes and tantalizing smells that will pull people out of their homes and into downtown Riverside.

For the second year, Riverside Restaurant Week will offer delicious fixed-price three-course lunch and dinner menus that can be paired with wines for an additional charge. And because last year's debut was so successful, this year's event will be two weeks — Sept. 28 to Oct. 10.

The preview, on Sept. 27, will be a grand gala at the Riverside Municipal

Auditorium featuring music, local performers, wine and fine cuisine. This lively evening will introduce those attending to the delicious foods to be enjoyed at each of the seven participating restaurants.

Guests may pick up a Restaurant Week passport and have it stamped at each restaurant when they visit. At the end of the two weeks, guests who have stamps from all seven restaurants will receive an invitation to attend an exclusive wine reception in the catacombs of the Mission Inn.

The seven restaurant members of Fine Dining Riverside are Ciao Bella Ristorante, Mario's Place, Mission Inn Restaurant, Restaurant Omakase, Olio Ristorante, Café Sevilla and Saffron. Each of these one-of-a-kind dining establishments boasts an original menu highlighting their

particular style of cuisine.

Offerings from the restaurants will run the gamut — halibut to duck breast, rib eye steak to cured pork cheek. Some menus will feature exotic preparations with fruits and vegetables, pasta, polenta, ravioli or quinoa spatzle.

And the desserts ... well, yum.

Once again this year, a portion of the proceeds from each meal will benefit the local arts community and provide culinary scholarships. Last year, the arts community received \$20,000.

#### **Riverside Restaurant Week**

Sept. 28-Oct. 10

\$20 for lunch, \$35 for dinner;

Additional charge for wine pairing

#### **Preview gala**

5-8 p.m. Sept. 27

Riverside Municipal Auditorium,  
3485 Mission Inn Ave.

\$50 in advance, \$60 at the door

<http://finediningriverside.com>