

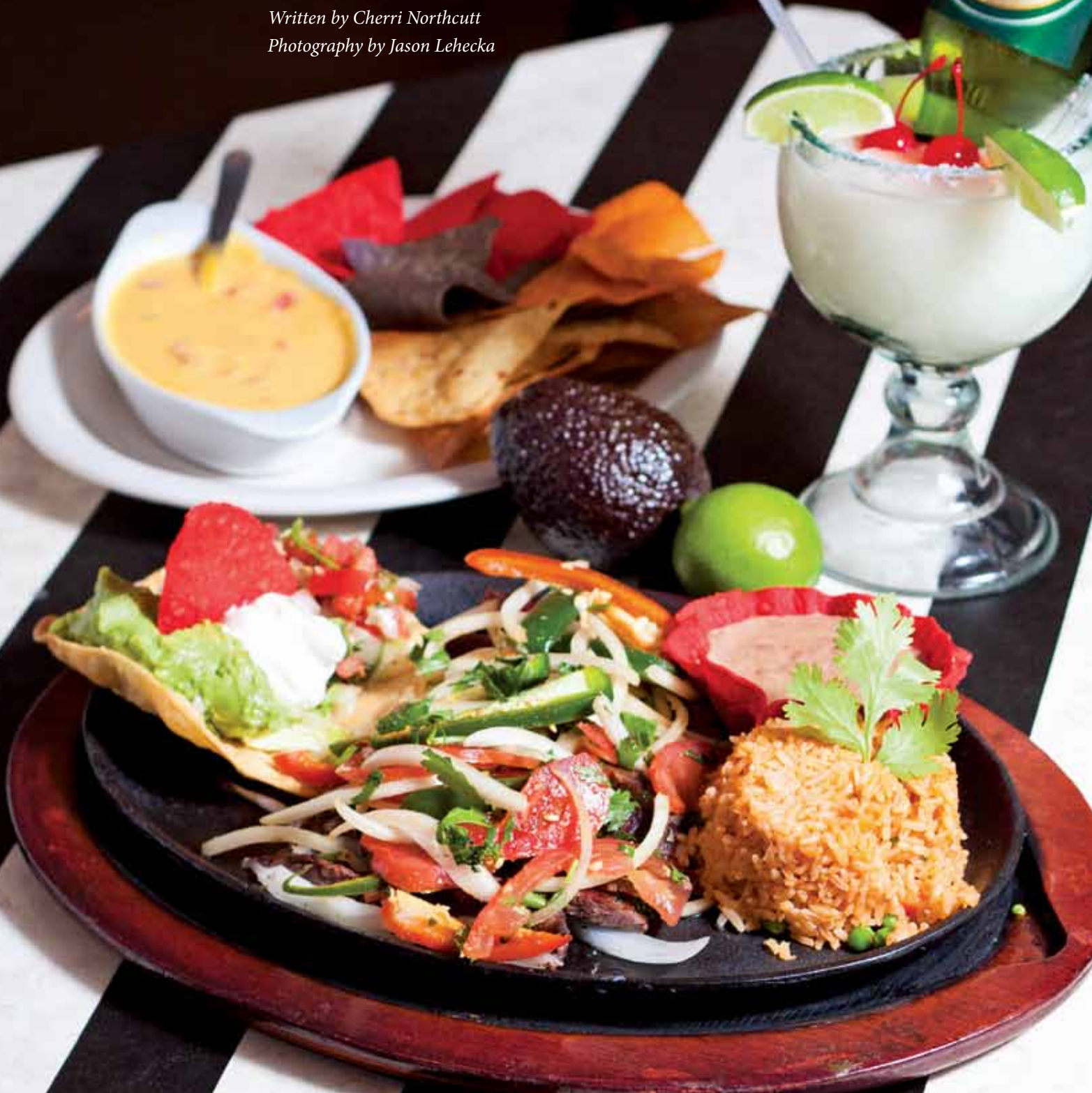
# Tempting Tex-Mex

KATY'S BEST-KEPT SECRETS FOR  
SPICY SOUTH-OF-THE-BORDER FARE

*Written by Cherri Northcutt*

*Photography by Jason Lehecka*

Fajitas Mexicanas  
at La Finca







Fajitas poblanas at Ruthie's Mexicana



The Matthews family at La Finca

Texans sure do love good Mexican food, and here in Katy, you don't have to go far to find it. With so many tantalizing Mexican restaurants to choose from, it's hard to decide where to go. In addition to great food, many Katy eateries offer a vibrant atmosphere with fun, colorful décor, friendly service, and lively Mariachi music. It's more than just a meal – it's a fiesta! Check out these local spots for some of Katy's best-kept Mexican food secrets that promise delicious results.



Dishing up a variety of Tex-Mex desserts at La Finca



The festive lights of Victor's Casa Garcia



A combination fajita platter at Victor's Casa Garcia

Photo by Suzi Issa



*Katy's Finest*  
**Mexican Restaurant & Bar**

at LaCenterra Cinco Ranch  
 (under the clock tower)

*Las Alamedas*

Lunch & Dinner    Breakfast & Brunch    Live Music    Courtyard Dining    Catering & Banquets

Located at LaCenterra  
 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd.  
 (281) 347-3030  
 www.LasAlamedas.com

*A 30 year old tradition.  
 A new Katy favorite.*

*Las Alamedas*  
 Fine Mexican Restaurant and Bar  
 \*Since 1980\*

**Cazadores Mexican Restaurant and Cantina**

1344 Pin Oak Rd. • 281-693-2122

Cazadores offers a full menu of traditional Tex-Mex fare, as well as grilled specialties you won't find anywhere else. Meat lovers will enjoy the shrimp Cozumel, a dish with melting mozzarella cheese over grilled shrimp, chicken, and beef. For something lighter, try the Chalupas Sabrosas with lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, chile gravy, guacamole, and refried beans.

**El Rancho**

17754 Katy Fwy. • 281-492-9677  
 2323 N. Fry Rd. • 281-492-9677  
 6823 S. Fry Rd. • 281-395-0999

Family-owned and -operated since 2002, El Rancho now has three Katy locations. Tana Weiss, a Seven Lakes area mother of two enjoys their newest location on S. Fry Rd. "They have a nice outdoor patio," she says, adding, "The kids like the cheese quesadillas, and the margaritas are good, too." El Rancho also dishes up mouthwatering specialties like the flavorful poblano con pollo, a grilled poblano pepper stuffed with chicken and cheese.

**Hacienda Guanajuato**

1520 S. Mason Rd. • 281-693-2299

This family-friendly gem has been a part of Katy for the last five years, and even lets kids eat free every Monday through Wednesday with the purchase of an adult meal. "We take pride in our family recipes," shares manager Alfonso Hernandez. One of the restaurant's most popular menu items, the Fajitas Caliente sizzle with marinated beef covered in onions, cilantro, jalapeno, and Monterrey Jack cheese. Another customer favorite is the El Once Combination, with a crispy beef taco, cheese enchilada, and a side of either chicken or beef fajita meat.

**La Finca**

23930 Westheimer Pkwy., #108 • 281-693-0141

A longtime Katy favorite, La Finca serves up some amazing chicken fajitas, crunchy tacos, and cheese quesadillas. Denise Pyron, a Katy mom of three, shares, "The food and the service are really good, and they have a friendly atmosphere." Pyron says her husband enjoys the enchiladas del mar, filled with shrimp, crab meat, and cheese. "The kids just love the cheese enchiladas," she adds.

### Las Alamedas

LaCenterra  
23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd., Ste. F140 • 281-347-3030

For those craving a sophisticated take on the southwest, Las Alamedas dishes up many delicious Tex-Mex options. Their hacienda-inspired decor adds to their authentic and festive atmosphere. Sample fresh new favorites like robalo Chileno, Chilean sea bass baked to perfection in herbs, or caldo loco, a sumptuous soup with chicken, rice, avocado, cheese, onions, and jalapeno. Traditional dishes like fajitas de pollo and Ceviche Costera will please everyone's palate with Las Alamedas' special attention to flavor and quality.

### Las Mananitas

803 S. Mason Rd., #400 • 281-492-7463

Known for its excellent queso, Las Mananitas is a fun place for get-togethers with friends and family. With bright décor and a grass-roofed bar in the corner, you can't help but enjoy the Mexican flair. Their Tex-Mex specialties include homemade tamales with gravy and melted cheese, and flautas de pollo, filled with chicken, sour cream, and guacamole. It's the ultimate in south-of-the-border comfort food.

### Los Cucos

5831 Highway Blvd. • 281-391-9466  
5305 Bel Patna • 281-644-680

A fixture in Old Katy for many years, Los Cucos has made a name for itself in the community. They offer a wide variety of Mexican combinations including popular Tex-Mex selections and traditional dishes, like Ceviche with ground shrimp, onions, cilantro, tomatoes, and jalapenos, cooked in lemon juice and served with fresh avocados. Katy student Carissa Martinez says, "I like the beef and cheese burritos." Kari Day, a local mother of two says, "Los Cucos' green sauce is our favorite." Day also enjoys birthdays at the restaurant. "They put a hat on you, sing, and put sour cream on your face, plus you get a sopapilla!" she says.

### Omar's Mexican Restaurant

20029 Katy Fwy. • 281-578-2423

Omar's is proud to offer authentic Mexican dishes like the plato de carnitas, with roasted chunks of pork served with tortillas, pico de gallo, Spanish rice, and Charro beans. Or try the enchiladas con mole, chicken enchiladas topped with mole sauce and Monterey cheese.

*The real flavors of*  
**THE MEDITERRANEAN**

©2011 Katy Magazine

**SaltenaS**  
MEDITERRANEAN Cafe Grill

981 S. Mason Road  
(at Cimarron)  
saltenasgrill.com  
**(281) 398-4711**

- Authentic Dishes
- Lunch & Dinner
- Courtyard Dining
- Catering & Banquets

FRESH PITA BREAD | GRAPE LEAVES | SHAWARMA BEEF & CHICKEN | SHISH KABOB  
HUMMUS | KIBBE | KNAFE & BAKLAVA | TURKISH COFFEE | MEDITERRANEAN GRILL

**LUNCH SPECIAL**  
**\$6.<sup>49</sup>**  
Choose your meat & 2 sides

HALAL





© 2010 Katy Magazine



"A Unique Neighborhood Bar & Grill"

Ray's Grill is an organic-inspired "farm to table" concept using local farmers and growers to create a unique dining experience.



- ★ Daily Seafood Menu
- ★ Jazz & Wine Tasting Thursdays
- ★ Customized Catering
- ★ Private Event Room
- ★ Cooking Classes
- ★ Wine Dinners
- ★ Sunday Brunch



8502 FM 359 Fulshear, TX 77441  
 (Just 10 Minutes from Katy)  
 281.533.0099 • raysgrill.com

SEAFOOD • STEAK • CHOPS • WILD GAME • FREE RANGE CHICKEN • VEGAN DISHES



CONSTRUCTION, ADDITIONS & REMODELING  
*Expertise*

© 2011 Katy Magazine

NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION REMODELING CUSTOM ADDITIONS CABINETS



Our attention-to-detail and reliable customer service allow you to build or remodel with peace of mind. We provide honest work, at a fair price, in a timely manner.



RENOVATIONS OUTDOOR LIVING AREAS PAINTING LIGHTING FLOORING

Call us for a quote on your home project 832-338-7082 www.evanjameshomes.com

## Adult, Child, & Adolescent Psychiatry *for Katy*

Dr. Langan provides confidential psychiatric assessment and treatment in a quiet, professional venue for individuals ages 4 through adult.



- Depression
- Anxiety
- Mood Disorders
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- OCD
- Eating Disorders
- Post-Partum Depression
- ADD/ADHD
- Divorce & Family Issues

Also, parental guidance and counseling in managing behavioral challenges in children is available.

**Abigail Langan, M.D.**

832.405.4660  
 20915 Kingsland Blvd.  
 katy-psychiatry.com

©2011 Katy Magazine



### Ruthie's Mexicana

1315 S. Grand Pkwy., #101 • 281-644-0208

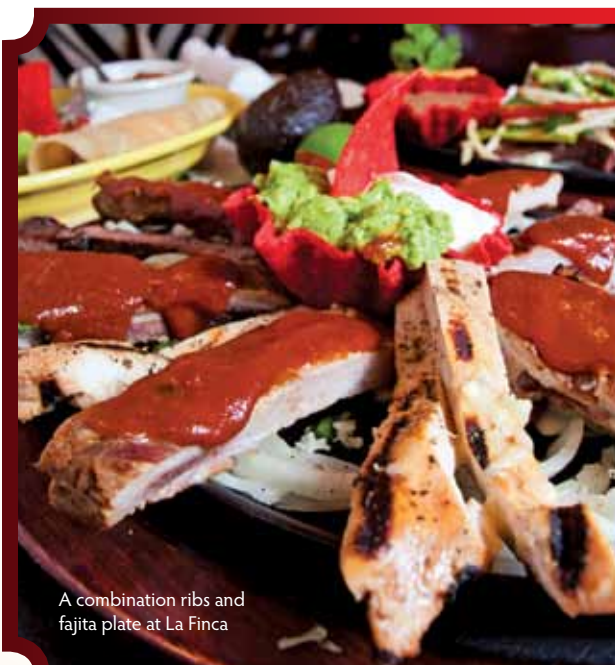
Always an exciting choice, Ruthie's is famous for its party atmosphere. Bea Cooke, a local florist and mother of two says, "It has a homey, small-town feeling, [and] they take care of you very well." Cooke's family enjoys the nachos and chicken enchiladas. "My girls also love the queso puffs," she shares.

### Victor's Casa Garcia

1939 N. Fry Rd. • 281-578-6450

In business since 1979, Victor's features a relaxed, rustic décor and a playground for the kids. Katyite Dianne Corn shares, "Victor's is our old standby. They're quick to fill your glass and they're very accommodating." Corn's favorite dish is the spinach enchiladas with mushrooms, sour cream, and white Monterey Jack cheese. Victor's also offers a selection of egg dishes perfect for Saturday or Sunday brunch, including huevos rancheros and chorizo con huevos served with bacon, refried beans, rice, and optional grilled quail. KM

*CHERRI NORTH CUTT is a freelance writer working and living in Katy. She has dined at every one of the restaurants listed here.*



A combination ribs and fajita plate at La Finca

## MORE KATY Mexican FOOD RESTAURANTS TO TRY

### Chuy's

21300 Katy Fwy.  
832-772-1277

### El Jarrito

21724 Highland Knolls  
281-579-8844

### Lupe Tortilla

703 W. Grand Pkwy. S.  
281-392-2322

### Tony's Mexican Restaurant

870 S. Mason Rd.  
281-392-6640

### TreeHouse Mexican Baja Grill

22756 Westheimer Pkwy.  
832-437-6322

### Vida Loca

21810 Kingsland Blvd.  
281-600-9600



## Celebrating 75 Years of Caring

Thorough exams using the latest technology  
Diagnosis & treatment of medical eye diseases  
Wide selection of designer & fashion eyewear  
Most major medical and vision plans accepted  
(Including VSP & OPTUM)

### Rose Virani, OD

Therapeutic Optometrist • Glaucoma Specialist  
23702 Westheimer, Katy TX 77494

281.391.2020 • [Katy.TSO.com](http://Katy.TSO.com)

