



## DELICIOUS EATS AT TRIO RESTAURANT

Some Palm Springs restaurants are for locals. Some are for tourists. Then there's Trio Restaurant.

Locals and tourists alike have fallen in love with Trio, and rightly so, thanks to the restaurant's California take on comfort food. From handmade potato chips to macaroni with five cheeses to Yankee pot roast, Trio makes it tasty, delicious and, yes, comforting.

Trio is the brainchild of Operations Manager Tony Marchese and Executive Chef Mark van Laanen. Marchese ran restaurants and night clubs in Chicago, while van Laanen was a chef in several Wisconsin restaurants. Both moved to Palm Springs a few years back. They met in 2008 while van Laanen was bartending an event at the Viceroy Hotel. From there, everything fell into place. "We're like lesbians, we moved in together," laughs Marchese.

By September 2009, they were giving birth to Trio. Even though they opened as the recession was in full swing, Trio still turned out to be a success. "If you do something you love and you're passionate about it, it all falls into place," Marchese says proudly.

Having great food certainly helped with that success. The most popular items on the menu are the pot roast and the rack of lamb. "Even in the heat of summer, they're still top-sellers," says Marchese. "People still like comfort food even in the summer."

For fish, sole is the number one seller. "We try to change the way it's prepared from time to time, but it always sells well," says Marchese. Another hit is the fresh fig and arugula salad made with ricotta cheese and hazelnuts.

On the dessert menu, the key lime tart made with fresh key limes—so it's yellow rather than green—always gets raves, as does their Trio Nut Torte made with hazelnuts, pecans, walnuts, chocolate and caramel.

Marchese and van Laanen don't take their success for granted. They understand that giving back is part of being successful. That's why they host many charity events and dinners. Their two main charities are the AIDS Assistance Program and the Art Institute of Palm Springs High School.

Their Oscar night party benefitting AIDS Assistance Program still has locals talking. And whenever they sell a piece of art on the walls (which they change every two months), 10 percent of the proceeds goes to Palm Springs High.

"Palm Springs High School is helping these kids get their talent out there and helping them know what they want to do after high school," Marchese says. "We want to foster that talent."

Trip Advisor ranks Trio as the number one restaurant out of 214 restaurants in the area. Trio also offers a three-course prix fixe dinner from 4 to 6 p.m.

Trio Restaurant, 707 N. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, (760) 864-8746; [tripalmsprings.com](http://tripalmsprings.com)