



Table Talk

Donovan's Steak & Chop House 3101 E. Camelback ■ Phoenix
(602) 955-3666

As expected, beef happens at Donovan's. But before you order, before you even are escorted to your table, you know this newcomer to the Valley restaurant scene is special among steak-houses. It's apparent the minute you walk in the door and enter a wood-paneled foyer that feels like home.

Dark wood paneling, in fact, coats walls throughout this upscale restaurant, creating a posh club atmosphere. Also setting the stage for enjoyment throughout are lovely works of art in the form of oil paintings and Western bronzes, and tables covered with crisp white cloths.

One of the private dining rooms incorporates a wine room housing some 3,000 bottles. Another nice touch: Depending on your attire, lint-free black napkins are substituted for standard white.

But what about the food, you probably are wondering. This also is special. And you no longer have to travel to La Jolla, Calif., where Donovan's originated, to experience it. Only 100-percent prime wet-aged Midwestern corn-fed beef is served 100 percent of the time, General Manager Robert Volpe notes.

Entrées run the gamut, from porterhouse and filet mignon, to T-bone, rib-eye and New York strip. Center-cut chops of pork and veal, Australian rack of lamb, broiled shrimp scampi, North Atlantic salmon, and Australian cold-water lobster tail also are offered. Fresh seasonal vegetables plus a choice of several potato selections (their specialty is garlic-smashed) are included with all entrées.

Soup, fried calamari, Maryland crab cakes, shrimp cocktail, grilled portobello mushroom and bacon-wrapped scallops round out the appetizer choices; salad options include house, spinach, Caesar, asparagus and roasted pepper, and beef-steak tomato with red onion. The menu also offers side dishes such as creamed spinach and giant onion rings, half a dozen desserts, including a decadent triple-chocolate brownie, and a wine list that is both extensive and interesting.

A member of Distinguished Restaurants of North America, Donovan's is open for dinner from 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Reservations are recommended. —LJB