

RESTAURANTS MAY 17, 2017 4:19 PM

Hanging out at 12 new patios in and around Fort Worth



Piattello Italian Kitchen and Taco Diner are in southwest Fort Worth. **Scott Fischer**



BY ROBERT PHILPOT
rphilpot@star-telegram.com

Once, a patio was kind of a special feature at a restaurant, and in some places that set the standard — we're looking at you, Joe T. Garcia's — it still is. But now, it almost seems like a requirement that a restaurant have a patio, even if that restaurant is an inexpensive, fast-casual chain restaurant facing a freeway (actually, there's a Chipotle in far north Fort Worth with a patio set just low enough that you can watch a sunset without looking at a traffic jam). And although there are some exceptions (Le Cep, one of Fort Worth's best restaurants, has no patio), patios are becoming the rule.

Enough of a rule that compiling a list of some good new ones is becoming an annual event.

ADVERTISING



The ones below distinguish themselves by managing to separate from the outside madness, tucking you away from the parking lots and the car exhaust that might be mere feet away. All of these patios are at restaurants that have opened in the past 12 months in Fort Worth and a couple of nearby cities.



Meso Maya: The first Fort Worth location of this Dallas-based, interior-Mexican-food restaurant, opened at the beginning of May in the Trinity Commons shopping center in southwest Fort Worth, features two patios. One is all-weather and more enclosed, and both are set far enough back to keep Hulen Street traffic and parking-lot bumper cars from interfering with the outdoor vibe. You might even forget that there's a big grocery store in the background. **3050 S. Hulen Street, Suite A, Fort Worth, 682-316-8266, <http://mesomaya.com>**