

Dining • Dining • Dining • Dining

To Donut or Not

By Susie Iventosch



From left, Cheng Ngauv, Julie Vilaysak Ngauv and John Hopper

Photos Susie Iventosch

I'm not one to gorge on donuts, so when I dropped in to check out Johnny's Donuts in Lafayette, I didn't expect to walk away with a box full of delicious buttermilk bars, chocolate old-fashioned, glazed and coconut topped breakfast treats. Johnny's makes amazing donuts and despite having been in the same location for 30 years, I'd never been there until early December.

Seng Vilaysak is the owner of the donut shop, but since he has two other locations, his sister and brother-in-law, Julie Vilaysak Ngauv and Cheng Ngauv, have operated the Lafayette store for the past 21 years.

Cheng says there are several secrets to making good donuts. Beside a little loving care, these include how long the dough is allowed to rise and then how long the donuts proof before baking.

"The oil temperature is very important," he said. "It must be 375 degrees. And the best kind of oil is soybean oil."

He also added that for cream filled or jelly filled donuts, he makes them to order so they don't get soggy sitting on the shelf.

John Hopper (unrelated to the man who originally founded Johnny's Donuts before Seng purchased the company) lived in

Lafayette for 30 years before he re-located to Rossmoor.

"I used to make the hand-painted signs for the shop," he noted. "I still come in three to four times a week to get a donut and coffee. They have the best donuts anywhere."

For the regular men's breakfast meeting at his church, Hopper always brings Johnny's donuts when it's his turn to provide breakfast goodies.

"The group always knows they're from Johnny's because they are the best donuts around," he said.

Since I have no idea how to make donuts, and if I tried they'd probably be hard as bricks and pale in comparison to Johnny's, there is no donut recipe to worry about this week! Nope, this time you'll have to run down to Johnny's and pick up a donut or two, because they are wonderful. And, if you feel like baking, here is my rendition of the good old sour cream coffee cake, made with yogurt instead of sour cream. This way, you can save a few calories for indulging at Johnny's!

Johnny's Donuts
3629 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette, 925/283-9352

Yogurt Pecan Coffee Cake



Cake

- ½ cup margarine or butter, softened
- 1½ cups granulated sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1½ teaspoons vanilla
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder
- 1½ teaspoons baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1½ cups plain low-fat yogurt

In a medium bowl, sift together flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt. In a larger bowl, cream butter (or margarine) and sugar with electric beater. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each (this is really important for this recipe.) Blend in vanilla. Add flour mixture alternately with yogurt, beginning and ending with dries. Mix well. See assembly below.

Cinnamon-Pecan Filling

- 1 cup brown sugar
 - ¼ cup granulated sugar
 - ¾ cup coarsely chopped toasted pecans
 - ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- Mix well.

To Assemble Coffee Cake

Grease either a 10-inch tube pan or 10-inch Bundt pan with cooking spray. Sprinkle ¼ of the filling on the bottom of pan. Spread 1/3 of the cake batter over filling, taking care not to mix with topping. Repeat process two times, ending with final ¼ filling. Bake in 350-degree oven for 45 minutes, or until a cake tester inserted in center of coffee cake comes out clean. Cool in pan and when cool, turn out upside down onto plate. Store in airtight container until ready to use.

These recipes are available on our web site.
Go to: www.lamorindaweekly.com
Susie can be reached at suziven@gmail.com



Free Entree Special

Get a free entree with the purchase of another entree of equal or greater value. (Maximum value is \$8.95 lunch & \$14.95 dinner.)

Petar's is open for lunch Monday through Saturday from 11:30 to 4:00 and open for dinner nightly.



925-284-7117

Petar's Restaurant is located in the heart of Lafayette at 32 Lafayette Circle.

* Regular menu only, not valid with daily board specials, early dinner menu or with any other specials or promotions. (soup & salad sides are not considered entrees) - Exp. Feb., 28, 2008 -

Early Bird Dinner 5-6pm

updated menu!

\$9.95

- Blackened Salmon
- or
- Pork Schnitzel
- or
- Chicken Parmagiana
- or
- Sautéed Veal Marsala
- or
- Smoked Salmon Ravioli



1419 Moraga Way, Moraga Shopping Center
925-376-3832 - www.terzettocuisine.com
Mon: 7am - 2pm; Tues-Sun: 7am - 8:30pm



Buy **ONE** King of Philly and the second King of Philly is **\$3.00 off**

Dine in or Take Out!

CAUTION: MAY BE HABIT FORMING

The Cheese Steak Shop
3455 Mt Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette • 925-283-1234

The Cheese Steak Shop
3110 Crow Canyon Pl.
San Ramon • 925-242-1112

Owned and Operated by Gerry Henkel and Gary Hunt

LAMORINDA's Restaurants

... updated November 26, 2008 ...

Restaurant	Address	Phone	Restaurant	Address	Phone	Restaurant	Address	Phone
American			Village Inn Café	290 Village Square, Ori	254-6080	La Cocina Mexicana	23 Orinda Way, Ori	258-9987
Bistro	3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7108	Continental			Mucho wraps	1375-B Moraga Way, Mor	377-1203
Chow Restaurant	53 Lafayette Cir, Laf	962-2469	Petar's Restaurant	32 Lafayette Cir, Laf	284-7117	Baja Fresh Mexican Grill	3596 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-8740
Quiznos	3651 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-0200	Vino Restaurant	3531 Plaza Way, Laf	284-1330	Celia's Restaurant	3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-8288
Ranch House	1012 School St, Mor	376-5127	Duck Club Restaurant	3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7108	El Balazo	3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-8700
Terzetto Cuisine	1419 Moraga Way, Mor	376-3832	French			Maya Mexican Grill	74 Moraga Way, Ori	258-9049
The Cheese Steak Shop	3455 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-1234	Chevalier Restaurant	960 Moraga Road, Laf	385-0793	Numero Uno Taqueria	3616 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1333
BBQ			Hawaiian Grill			Pizza		
Bo's Barbecue	3422 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7133	Lava Pit	2 Theatre Square, St. 142, Ori	253-1338	Mountain Mike's Pizza	3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-6363
Burger Joint			Indian			Mountain Mike's Pizza	504 Center St, Mor	377-6453
Flippers	960 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-1567	India Palace	3740 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-5700	Pennini's	1375 Moraga Rd, Mor	376-1515
Nation's Giant Hamburgers	400 Park, Mor	376-8888	Swad Indian Cuisine	3602 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-9575	Round Table Pizza	361 Rheem Blvd, Mor	376-1411
Nation's Giant Hamburgers	76 Moraga Way, Ori	254-8888	Italian			Round Table Pizza	3637 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-0404
Café			Giardino	3406 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-3869	Village Pizza	19 Orinda Way # Ab, Ori	254-1200
Express Cafe	3732 Mt. Diablo Blvd # 170, Laf	283-7170	Knox Restaurant, Lounge	3576 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-5225	Zamboni's Pizza	1 Camino Sobrante # 4, Ori	254-2800
Ferrari- Lucca Delicatessens	23 Lafayette Cir, Laf	299-8040	La Finestra Ristorante	100 Lafayette Cir, St. 101, Laf	284-5282	Sandwiches/Deli		
Geppetto's cafe	87 Orinda Way, Ori	253-9894	La Piazza	15 Moraga Way, Ori	253-9191	Bianca's Deli	1480 Moraga Rd # A, Mor	376-4400
Rising Loafer	3643 Mt. Diablo Blvd Ste B, Laf	284-8816	Mangia Ristorante Pizzeria	975 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-3081	Europa Hofbrau Deli & Pub	64 Moraga Way, Ori	254-7202
Susan Foord Catering & Cafe	965 Mt. View Drive, Laf	299-2469	Michael's	1375 Moraga Way, Mor	376-4300	Gourmet Bistro Café	484 Center St, Mor	376-1551
California Cuisine			Mondello's	337 Rheem Blvd, Mor	376-2533	Kasper's Hot Dogs	103 Moraga Way, Ori	253-0766
Gigi's	1005 Brown St., Laf	962-0882	Pizza Antica	3600 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-0500	Noah's Bagels	3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-0716
Metro Lafayette	3524 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-4422	Postino	3565 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-8700	Orinda Deli	19 F Orinda Way, Ori	254-1990
Shelby's	2 Theatre Sq, Ori	254-9687	Ristorante Amorama	360 Park St, Mor	377-7662	Subway	396 Park St., Mor	376-2959
Chinese			Japanese			Subway	3322 Mt. Diablo Blvd #B, Laf	284-2627
Asia Palace Restaurant	1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor	376-0809	Asia Palace Sushi Bar	1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor	376-0809	Subway	Theatre Square, Ori	258-0470
Chef Chao Restaurant	343 Rheem Blvd, Mor	376-1740	Blue Ginko	3518-A Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-9020	Seafood		
China Moon Restaurant	380 Park St, Mor	376-1828	Kane Sushi	3474 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-9709	Yankee Pier	3593 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-4100
The Great Wall Restaurant	3500 Golden Gate Way, Laf	284-3500	Niwa Restaurant	1 Camino Sobrante # 6, Ori	254-1606	Singaporean/Malaysian		
Hsiangs Mandarin Cuisine	1 Orinda Way # 1, Ori	253-9852	Serika Restaurant	2 Theatre Sq # 118, Ori	254-7088	Kopitiam	3647 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1653
Lily's House	3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd #A, Laf	284-7569	Tamami's Japanese Restaurant	356 Park St, Mor	376-2872	Steak		
Mandarin Flower	581 Moraga Rd, Mor	376-7839	Yu Sushi	19 Moraga Way, Ori	253-8399	Casa Orinda	20 Bryant Way, Ori	254-2981
Panda Express	3608 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-0288	Jazz Dinner Club			Tea		
Szechwan Chinese Restaurant	79 Orinda Way, Ori	254-2020	Joe's of Lafayette	3707 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Laf	299-8807	Patisserie Lafayette	71 Lafayette Cir, Laf	283-2226
Uncle Yu's Szechuan	999 Oak Hill Rd, Laf	283-1688	The Orinda House	65 Moraga Way, Ori	258-4445	Tea Party by Appointment	107 Orinda Way, Ori	254-2206
Yan's Restaurant	3444 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-2228	Mediterranean			Thai		
Coffee Shop			Petra Café	2 Theatre Sq # 105, Ori	254-5290	Amarin Thai Cuisine	3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd # B, Laf	283-8883
Millie's Kitchen	1018 Oak Hill Rd #A, Laf	283-2397	Oasis Café	3594 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-8822	Baan Thai	99 Orinda Way, Ori	253-0989
Squirrel's Coffee Shop	998 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-7830	Turquoise Mediterranean Grill	70 Moraga Way, Ori	253-2004	Royal Siam	512 Center Street, Mor	377-0420
			Mexican			Siam Orchid	23 Orinda Way # F, Ori	253-1975
			360 Gourmet Burrito	3655 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1270	Vietnamese		
			El Charro Mexican Dining	3339 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-2345	Little Hearty Noodle, Pho & Pasta	578 Center Street, Mor	376-7600
			El Jaro Mexican Cafe	3563 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-6639			

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