

Copper Canyon Fills a Void



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Boca has its share of destination restaurants—in a variety of categories—many of which feature price points commensurate with the fine-dining experience. But what about back-to-the-basics dining that delivers an upscale experience without decimating the wallet?

Enter Copper Canyon Grill, which officially opens its doors this Monday just off of Glades Road near the I-95 intersection.

(In the interest of full disclosure, my wife does business with Copper Canyon.) The fifth establishment for Blue Ridge Restaurant Group, and first Copper Canyon in the United States, is just what Boca needed—a hearty slice of American cuisine at moderate prices.

Local media received a tour of the 6,300-square-foot space (2006 N.W. Executive Circle) and, as one might expect, general manager Anthony Ray and his team put their best foot (and food) forward. We sampled everything from martini-style margaritas (complete with an olive) to slow-cooked (10 to 12 hours) St. Louis style barbecue ribs that tumbled off the bone to decadent pineapple upside-down cake made with Jim Beam.

But the star of the menu—and the item that will keep people coming back—is the savory rotisserie chicken. The five Blue Ridge restaurants, combined, will cook more than 1 million pounds of chicken this year, and it's easy to see why. Chicken at Copper Canyon is hand-rubbed with 31 spices and left to rotate over a pecan/oak/hickory grill for nearly three hours. The result is chicken like you've never had it before—meat rich with flavors and so moist it practically melts in your mouth.

Copper Canyon also features hickory-grilled steaks, salads and a sampling of sushi, which is unique to the Boca outlet. Lunch selections run in the \$10 to \$13 range; dinner items mostly fall in the \$13 to \$20 range, with no one dish exceeding \$30.

Monday and Tuesday, the doors open at 4 p.m. for dinner only, but starting next Wednesday, Copper Canyon opens for lunch at 11 a.m. The restaurant will offer complimentary valet parking and call-ahead seating but, for now, no reservations.