

Best Lunch

Paradise Bakery & Café

The Falls at Ocotillo
1075 West Queen Creek Road, Chandler
480-782-5355
www.paradisebakery.com
Monday through Saturday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday,
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

by K. M. Lang

Although Paradise Bakery & Café in Ocotillo opened its doors less than a year ago, it's already become a favorite midday destination for many. Chosen by readers as Best Lunch in Southern Chandler, Paradise Bakery serves a variety of sandwiches, salads and soups, as well as baked goods ranging from cookies and brownies to fruit-filled croissants.

"Each product is prepared daily for ultimate freshness," says District Manager Chris Brown. "Everything from the baked products, sandwiches to the bread we make. We actually make our own bread."

The first Paradise Bakery & Café opened its doors in Long Beach, Calif. in 1976. The company now operates restaurants in seven states, and has 14 locations in Arizona. The Southern Chandler location, open since October 2003 at The Falls, seems to have been a good fit for the community.

"This particular location here at Ocotillo has done very, very well ... has exceeded our expectations," says Brown, who goes on to explain what he believes is the source of the café's success. "It's definitely our

people. The customer service that they deliver is really second to none, and they really are passionate about what they do. And the culture that we have here at Paradise is really a family atmosphere, so that people, when they come in, really feel invited."

Paradise Bakery's fare is served cafeteria-style, and guests may eat either in the casual, market décor dining room, or at outdoor tables. Paradise Bakery offers catering, as well, including breakfast, individual lunches, group lunches and desserts.

"We do deliver to organizations, and we have menus on the website, and also at our locations," explains Brown, adding that the staff at Paradise Bakery is always happy to answer customer questions.

"The managers are always available to all the guests," he emphasizes. "People should feel that they can come in, enjoy the meal, talk to the managers, talk to the employees, and feel comfortable."



Photo by Gordon Murray,
www.fgordonphoto.com

Manuel Lopez, Paul Freeman, Molly Ryan, Ickeer Ruiz, Jenny Nimen and Sue Dunham are part of an extensive crew at Paradise Bakery. Juan Ayala works in the background.