



# Food For Thought

December 2006



brought to you by the RestRock Restaurant Group: Tortilla Marissa's, and Windsor's Main Street Grill

## Happy Holidays! Are You Ready?



Ready or not, the holidays are upon us. I've always loved staying home for the holidays. It just feels right to me. I like being in my familiar surroundings, having all the conveniences of home right at hand, especially when it comes to working in the kitchen.

Don't get me wrong. We've spent a number of holidays traveling to visit relatives, and we've always had a great time. (They may not have all been great, but those seem to be the only ones I recall) That's what this time of year is all about, sharing good times and experiences with family and friends.

Thanksgiving for us has become a familiar routine. We start the day by running in the 4 mile Thanksgiving Run in Fort Collins where we are able to visit with many of our friends who have the same tradition. The rest of the day is spent relaxing, cooking, eating, and enjoying time with family and friends. We always cook our turkey outdoors in a Weber Grill. Connie makes a great sausage stuffing, and her pumpkin and pecan pies are as good as you could imagine.

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. I am so thankful for my health, my family and friends, and all the opportunities and challenges that I have been blessed with.

But the day after Thanksgiving the pressures start to build. Now we're into the heart of the holiday season; plenty of parties, shopping, visiting friends, traveling for many of us, wrapping and sending gifts, kids home from school, and.....

Remember to take a break from the madness. Take time for yourself, relax and reflect on your favorite holiday memories and all the blessings in your life. You'll feel better for it.

And if there is any way we can help with your holiday plans this year, keep us in mind. Whether it's take-out meals, taking the family out to eat instead of cooking at home, a party you need catered, a banquet you need to schedule, or even appetizer platters to take to a potluck - we'd like to help you out. Just give us a call. We'll make sure you look good to all your friends.

In the meantime, enjoy your holiday season, and remember to

Party On,

*Doug*

.....  
• *In the old days, it was not called the Holiday Season; the Christians called it 'Christmas' and*  
• *went to church; the Jews called it 'Hanukka' and went to synagogue; the atheists went to parties and*  
• *drank. People passing each other on the street would say 'Merry Christmas!' or 'Happy Hanukka!' or (to*  
• *the atheists) 'Look out for the wall!'" - Dave Barry "Christmas Shopping: A Survivor's Guide"*  
.....

Visit both of the Award Winning RestRock Restaurants. All open daily for lunch and dinner at 11 a.m.

**Windsor's Main Street Grill**  
1294 Main Street, Windsor  
970-674-0810  
[www.windsorgrill.com](http://www.windsorgrill.com)

**Tortilla Marissa's - North of the Border Cafe**  
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## No Peeking \$10,000 Giveaway



There's something special going on at both Tortilla Marissa's and Windsor's Main Street Grill during December. Our "No Peeking" Christmas Envelopes are being given out to every party that visits us ...we plan to give away free dinners, desserts and appetizers, 10-50% off certificates, free movie rental passes, RestRock Gift Certificates, and even mini digital cameras...the kittle could total more than \$10,000 in prizes to be given away! Every time you join us in December you will be given a sealed red envelope with you bill. **But No Peeking!** You can't open it until you return to us in January or February...and you have to open it in front of your server when your secret prize will be revealed...ooh the suspense!



A three-year-old gave this reaction to her Christmas dinner. "I don't like the turkey, but I like the bread he ate."



## 5 Secrets to Saving Your Holiday Budget

Before you start your holiday shopping it's a good idea to take stock of what it means to be a smart shopper. Here are some basics that can keep you out of trouble:

- 1) Before you buy anything, sit down and determine the amount you want to spend. Then work up a budget for everything you will need to buy to complete your holiday shopping. This can be tricky. You don't want to fool yourself into thinking you're keeping within budget, when you've forgotten to add in everything you will need. Don't forget to add in the cost of stocking stuffers, wrapping paper, and shipping—all those things that are so easy to forget when you are creating your budget—and which can put you in hock in the year to come.
- 2) Before you head out the door or log on to make your purchases, educate yourself about what's out there and who has the best prices. Doing this has never been easier. Get on the Internet and use the sites that compare retail prices. Check out Web sites for shipping deals. Surf for great ideas for gifts if you're stumped. Look for coupons. Peruse newspapers for sale inserts and deals. Then decide if you're better off making your purchase online or in the brick-and-mortar arena.
- 3) Make a list. And then follow it. Don't change the amount you want to spend or what you want to buy when you are shopping. This will get you in trouble and make it hard to stay within your budget.
- 4) If you are going to make online purchases, make sure you know what the deal is. Do you have to purchase a certain dollar amount to get free shipping? Is free shipping available, and if not, how much will it add to your purchase, and does that cancel out your reason for buying online in the first place? Also remember to check out shipping deadlines.
- 5) Don't use your credit card, if you can avoid it. You'll be happier if you avoid running up debt. However, if you make online purchases, it's safer to use a credit card than your debit card. If you do use your credit card, don't purchase beyond your immediate ability to pay off what you purchase.

Think gift certificates. Gift certificates are a great way of staying in your budget, because you avoid buying something more expensive that you stumble upon while shopping. (By the way, Restrock Restaurants have Gift Certificates available in any denomination you would like, and you will receive Royalty Reward points for gift certificate purchases.)

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## How To Impress Your Guests

Throwing a party is often a matter of the right combination of providing your guests relaxation and enough structure that they are able to enjoy themselves. A savvy hostess knows that there are many ways to do this. Here are a few tips for throwing a winning party:

- **Set the tone.** If you really want everyone to relax and have fun make sure that you are completely organized, but, according to party-throwing expert Katie Brown, you might want to answer the door in your robe with your hair wrapped up in a towel to show people you are and getting ready to enjoy the evening without stressing out. Then go change for the party.
- Whatever you're going to serve, **have it ready to go**, and know how you're going to serve it. If it's sit down, you'll want to have the first course on the table before you call your guests in to sit down. If it's a buffet, round up some light help from your guests to do last minute preparations—they'll be relieved to be called upon—just don't ask too much of them.
- **Accept all gifts graciously**, but don't feel pressure to use what people bring immediately if you already have something else planned. Make sure you thank the person and emphasize you can't wait to try it tomorrow. If someone brings flowers, put them in a vase, but don't destroy the look of your table or room by giving them a central location (unless you want to and feel they will look good).
- **Keep people talking and the conversation rolling.** Don't let one person dictate what everyone talks about. You are the hostess and you can politely interject if someone takes over inappropriately or focuses on an inappropriate subject. Listen to what the person is saying and find a place to interject and segue into a new subject.
- **See people out when they are ready to go**, but don't linger at the door and ignore your other guests. You want to make sure everyone leaves feeling you truly enjoyed their company and that they added to the uniqueness of the evening.

### Twelve Days of Christmas Gift Certificate Sale!!

**Monday, Dec 4th - thru Friday, Dec 15th**

**Buy \$50 in gift certificates  
get a \$10 bonus certificate\* FREE**

**Buy \$100 in gift certificates  
get a \$25 bonus certificate\* FREE**

**Remember, you also get Royalty Rewards  
points for gift certificate purchases.**

(\*Bonus certificates valid January 1 thru March 31, 2007)



**DOUBLE POINTS!**

To celebrate a great year with our new Royalty Rewards Loyalty Program, bring this certificate into Tortilla Marissa's or Windsor's Main Street Grill before December 31st and you will receive Double Points on your visit – that means twice the rewards!

### **IF YOU HAVEN'T JOINED YET...**

Join our Royalty Rewards Loyalty Program, it's **FREE** and you'll earn one point for every dollar spent on food and beverages.

**Ask your Server for a Sign-up Card and You  
Can Start Earning Points Today!**

**Promo Code: 10468**

### **FREE DINNER!**

Each month we'll give you a new trivia question. Bring in your entry, or fill one out while you are here. The first one drawn at the end of the month with the correct answers will win a FREE Dinner valued up to \$15.00. Here is this month's trivia question:

When you go Wassailing, what is it that you are doing?

- Giving out gifts to your friends & neighbors
- Going out in the woods to cut down your Christmas tree
- Challenging as many of your neighbors as you can to a snowball fight
- Going to sing for neighbors and receiving goodies in return!

*The first 10 people to answer correctly will be in the drawing to WIN!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_

My answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Tortilla Marissa's, Windsor's Main Street Grill**  
4025 Automation Way, B2  
Fort Collins, CO 80525



**DOUBLE POINTS!**  
For Royalty Rewards Members

**Win a FREE DINNER**  
**Trivia Contest inside this**  
**Newsletter**  
**Twelve Days of Christmas**  
**Gift Certificate Sale**

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## What's Inside...

**\$10,000 No Peeking Giveaway in December**

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**How To Impress Your Guests**

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**Twelve Days of Christmas Gift Certificate Sale**

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**Free Dinner Trivia Contest**

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**5 Secrets to Saving Your Holiday Budget**



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