

Sunset's TRAVEL GUIDE

Chili lovers converge on Tucson, Sun Valley gets jazzed, Boeing shows off its new air wonder

TUCSON

The chili plant has failed miserably in its mission: the fruit's fiery attributes originally were intended to repel animals other than certain birds from consuming it. But each fall there is proof aplenty of the chili's downfall, when masochistic humans who just can't get enough of the flaming flesh come together for the popular La Fiesta de los Chiles, at Tucson Botanical Gardens. This year's festival, from 10 to 5 on October 22 and 23, is expected to draw more than 60 food and gift exhibitors.

The luscious smells of roasting chilies, corn, and garlic are immediately upon you as you enter the fee gate and receive your chili hand-stamp. Guatemalan, Malaysian, Mexican, Native American, and American Southern and Southwestern food offerings infuse your senses with the global importance of chili, while drifts of Latin jazz and salsa from the bandstand keep you moving past the display booths. Gift offerings range from special chili foods like Mad Coyote Barbecue Dust to colorful T-shirts to decorations such as chili ristras and chili jewelry.

If the kids get bored, park them at the popular "Chile Rap" puppet show, performed at least once each day. And don't miss the demonstrations of chili stringing, preparing chili food dishes, and chili roasting.

The best plan is to avoid the noon-hour lunch crush; have a late breakfast and arrive at the festival ready to shop, or go and eat early, when you're more likely to find a shady table. The festival area is dirt and gravel, and dust is a fact of life this time of year, so wear comfortable clothes and shoes. For the same reason, backpack-style child carriers are preferable to



BENITO GUTIERREZ displays a chili ristra made by the family-run Gutierrez Farms of McNeal, Arizona, at Tucson's La Fiesta de los Chiles.

McNEAL, AZ.



Tastes of Sunset

The Tastes of *Sunset* holiday food and wine festival runs October 28 through 30 at the Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center, in Long Beach, California. In addition to trying out foods from around the Pacific Rim, you can attend cooking demonstrations by such noted chefs as Nancy Silverton, of Campanile in Los Angeles, and Mark Kiffin, of the Coyote Cafe in Santa Fe. Other well-known chefs at the festival will include Narsai David, Mollie Katzen, Graham Kerr, and Martin Yan.

Jerry Anne Di Vecchio, *Sunset* senior editor and food columnist, will reveal the secret of how to cook the perfect turkey. Other members of the *Sunset* food staff will demonstrate fun and easy holiday menu ideas like cranberry margaritas. In addition to offering samples of exotic fruits and vegetables, representatives from Pavilions stores will show you how to decorate a cake and make floral arrangements. There will also be wine and beer tastings, musical entertainment, and several dream kitchens with state-of-the-art appliances.

Show hours are noon to 8 on Friday, 10 to 7 on Saturday, and 10 to 6 on Sunday. Admission costs \$10, \$8 for seniors, free for ages 11 and under. Discount coupons are available this month at Pavilions stores and participating Southern California Toyota dealerships. For more information, call (800) 321-1213.—David Lansing

strollers. Pack a bottle of water as well.

The festival is sponsored by Tucson Botanical Gardens and Native Seeds/SEARCH. Admission costs \$3 in advance or \$5 at the gate, \$1 for members of sponsoring organizations. Admission is free for ages 11 and under and for volunteers. The gardens are at 2150 N. Alvernon Way, just south of Grant Road. Parking is scarce, but you can take a free Chile Tran bus shuttle from El Con Mall parking lot (northeast corner, on Dodge Boulevard between Fifth Street and Broadway). For more information, call Tucson Botanical Gardens at (602) 326-9686, or Native Seeds/SEARCH at 327-9123.—Roseann Hanson

SUN VALLEY, IDAHO

Jazz jamboree swings through town

In October, Sun Valley's cottonwoods and aspens

turn gloriously gold. The first snow dusts the mountains. Frost sparkles on summer flowers. And, for five days, October 12 through 16, jazz fills the air as the Sun Valley Swing 'n' Dixie Jazz Jamboree saturates America's first European-style ski resort with uniquely American sound.

At a dozen sites around the valley, from the elegant dining room of the Sun Valley Lodge to the quaint intimacy of the Opera House, 23 top bands with names like the St. Louis Rivermen, Chicago Six, and Night Blooming Jazzmen entertain from breakfast through nightcaps.

From Wednesday night's parade through Sunday's jazz worship services and After-glow buffet dinner, as many as 10 groups perform simultaneously. Ticket holders either remain in one location as bands rotate or stroll among performances, dancing, toe-tapping, and rubbing shoulders with jazz devotees in jazz club jackets, "Jazz 'n Around" sweatshirts, and jewelry