



PANCHO VILLA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT Salsa So Good You'll Tell Your Friends

by Jonathan Ment

"Amazing margaritas... freshly-prepared food and beautiful décor."

In a nutshell, that's how most folks describe Pancho Villa's Mexican Restaurant in Tannersville, a member of the senior class of this mountaintop village's broad range of restaurants.

Oscar Azcue, who owns the popular destination with his wife Patricia, can be found most nights tending the corner bar in the rear of the dining room.

Patricia is the head chef, and though she's rarely seen outside of the kitchen fans of Pancho Villa's fare know and love her dedication to what comes out of the kitchen.

Azcue says family opened the restaurant in November 1993,



PHOTO CREDIT: JONATHAN ME

The writer, his wife and Florida-based in-laws during a recent visit. Visiting Pancho Villa's is an regular request when they're in town.

so this winter marks Pancho Villa's 25th Anniversary.

For the many locals and regional fans who visit to the mountaintop restaurant get their fill, it's a regular and frequent stop.

It's also a casual dining destination for area residents entertaining out-of-town guests in search of delectable dinners and expertly prepared drinks. The low-key atmosphere even includes a musical backdrop of Mariachi or Tex-Mex influenced 'Tejano' music.

Every meal begins with a complimentary basket of freshly fried tortilla chips and, to my taste buds, by far the best house-made salsa anywhere. The combo is so good, chips and salsa are also popular to-go items, with entire menu being available for takeout.

continued to Page 14

continued from Page 12



Appetizers run the gamut from humble barbecued pork ribs and kid-friendly chicken tenders and French fries to crispy corn chalupas topped with ground beef, refried beans, melted cheese and jalapenos; flour tortilla flautas (think flutes) – filled with shredded chicken or beef and served with sour cream and salsa picante; shrimp stuffed jalapenos; fresh guacamole and more.

Available entrees include Pancho Villa's mouth-watering sizzling fajitas signature (my goto) burritos, enchiladas, quesadillas and more – like the "Mole Poblano," a chicken breast served in a slow-cooked delightfully complicated mole sauce made from dried chili peppers, 17 different spices and Mexican chocolate.

There are also seafood options and a range of American fare such as steaks, burgers and pork chops.

The restaurant takes its name from the notorious Mexican revolutionary active in the late 1800s and early 1900s and is painted in colorful hues Azcue has described as the "real Mexican colors, bright colors." The paint scheme marked Pancho Villa's early adoption of Tannersville's "Painted Village in the Sky" motif.

Free on-street parking is available as well as in municipal lots throughout the village.

The restaurant features regular weekly specials like "Fajita Night" on Mondays, margarita

cials like 'Fajita I and Mexican beer specials on Wednesdays as well as Thursday's Sangria and enchiladas (all subject to change, naturally!) ... and salsa so good, you'll tell your friends!

Pancho Villa's

6037 Main Street Tannersville 518-589-5134 panchovillamex.com

Open at 4pm Mon, Wed-Fri and Noon on Sat & Sun

