



Nakama

Your New Circle of Friends

By Lori Romano

Translated, Nakama means “circle of friends,” and that is exactly how owners Rey and Becky Maldonado see every customer who walks through the front door of their West Valley restaurant. “We created Nakama in 2007 in the community we both grew up in,” Rey says. “We have always been surrounded by close family and friends, and we wanted that type of feeling when you enter our restaurant.”

Located in Goodyear, Nakama has something for every occasion and every appetite. There is a full bar that features a variety of wines, hot and cold sake, imported and domestic beers, and great martinis. There is Happy Hour from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 pm Monday through Saturday and all day Sunday that features drinks and select sushi, sashimi and starters. Nakama also accommodates private parties, and boasts a full catering service.

The fusion menu is a delicious mix of chicken, pork, seafood, and certified

Angus beef. If you want to keep it light, there are several sumptuous salads, including the Won Ton Nicoise, featuring seared tuna on a bed of greens, accompanied by julienne carrots, potatoes, sweet red peppers, boiled eggs, crisp wontons and sake



citrus dressing. For something a bit more substantial, try the Coco Mac Chicken—a tender chicken breast crusted with coconut and macadamia nuts, pan fried to a golden brown and served with wasabi mashed potatoes, mango relish, and Asian slaw.

For those who want great sushi, Nakama won't disappoint. Order a combo, or order rolls à la carte from Nakama's extensive menu. Don't miss the Lotus Roll—a California Roll topped with baby lobster and brought to your table flambé-style—or the Rock 'N Roll—four pieces of chef's choice fresh fish, gobo, avocado, crab, masago and cucumber. “The best thing about Nakama is that we are independently owned, so we can think outside the box,” Rey says. “If you don't see a type of roll you want, nine times out of ten, we can make it for you.”

Nakama doesn't stop at great food. There are also several events that will keep customers coming back for more. For \$15, you can take the Sushi and Sake 101 class that features hands-on training from Nakama's sushi chefs, educating customers on the types of fish used, how to cut it, and how to construct rolls. Nakama was also recently approached by a local salon and clothing company to host a fashion show, and is currently planning another show in November.

Nakama Sushi Restaurant and Lounge
13215 W. McDowell Rd., Goodyear
623.935.3809
www.nakamaaz.com