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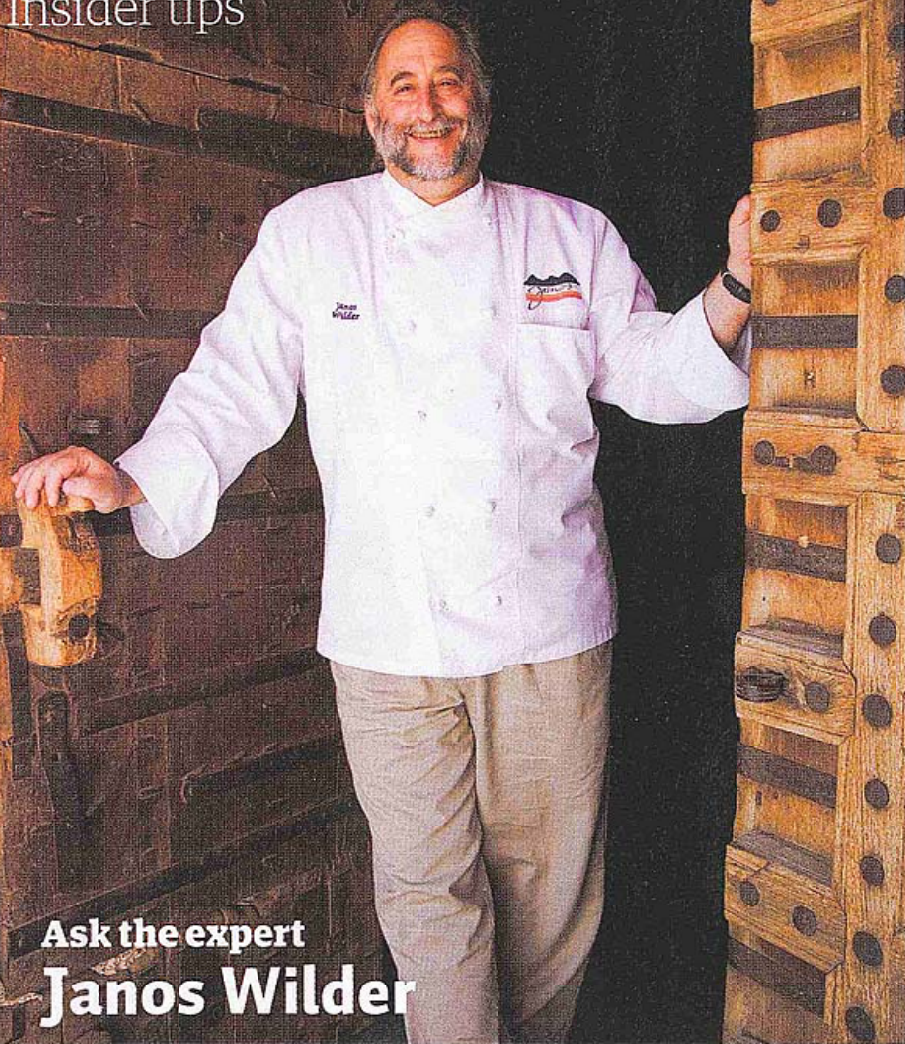
Flea-market finds
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Ask the expert
Janos Wilder

The pioneer of New Southwestern cooking lets us in on his hot spots in **Tucson, Boulder, and Nogales**

You just wrote *The Great Chiles Rellenos Book* (Ten Speed Press, 2008; \$17). Where, besides in your own restaurants, can you find good versions of this dish? One of the recipes in the book comes from La Roca (\$\$; larocarestaurant.com), a restaurant in the Mexico side of Nogales, about an hour from Tucson. It's very romantic and serves unusual rellenos: They use hot chiles, and they're stuffed with shrimp and wrapped in bacon. In Tucson, Rosa's Mexican Food (\$; 520/325-0362) is a popular neighborhood restaurant, and an excellent example of the mild, lightly battered rellenos one finds in the Sonoran region.

You used to live in Boulder and often go back on vacation. Restaurant tips? I was a chef at the Gold Hill Inn (prix fixe \$31; 303/443-6461) in the early '70s. It's still a great place to eat. Two of my current favorites are the Kitchen (\$\$\$; 303/544-5973) and

Frasca Food and Wine (\$\$\$\$; closed Sun; 303/442-6966). Both have an ecological and environmental ethos that really resonates with me.

You've got lots of wonderful art in your restaurants. Where did you get it? Bringing art into the restaurants has been a great source of pleasure for Rebecca [Wilder's wife and business partner] and me. We wanted to focus on artists from the region. Rebecca bought one piece directly from the late Bruce McGrew, and we got some work by him and other artists we like from Tucson's Davis Dominguez Gallery (closed Sun; davisdominguez.com). The paintings by Gail Marcus Orlen came from Etherton Gallery (closed Sun; etherton-gallery.com).

INFO Wilder is the chef-owner of Tucson's Janos (\$\$\$\$) and J Bar (\$\$; both closed Sun; 520/615-6100). —EDIE JAROLIM

 FOR A HANDY LIST OF WILDER'S TIPS, GO TO sunset.com/weekend

Editor's picks

Albuquerque

On our radar: Stocking-stuffers

What we think: The Nob Hill district store Papers! carries witty gifts like the world's smallest tarot deck, colored pencils in artful tins, and fountain pens. And to please the perennially hard-to-please: the Buddha Board (\$10), reusable paper that lets you paint with water. 505/254-1434.

—RONNI LUNDY

New Mexico

On our radar: Fibers made into art

What we think: If you're a fiber arts fanatic (i.e., you go nuts over Navajo weaving, straw appliqué, and embroidery), then the New Mexico Fiber Arts Trail (nmfiberarts.org) is your idea of heaven. You can visit more than 60 stops, among them galleries, studios, trading posts, mills, and museums, from Toadlena to Santa Fe, with a downloadable guide to help map your route. One of our favorites on the trail is Victory Ranch Alpacas and Store (victoryranch.com), near Mora. On a ranch tour (\$3), you can watch the fleece being spun into yarn and feed the alpacas. —R.L.

Outside Tucson

On our radar: Hidden Canyon Trail

What we think: With the arrival of cool weather, you'll want to escape into prime Sonoran Desert terrain, just 15 minutes from downtown Tucson. Completed only last year, the easy 2-mile loop in Tucson Mountain Park winds and climbs through a saguaro forest to expansive desert views. www.pima.gov/nrpr/places/tucs.mtptk —MATTHEW JAFFE

Phoenix

On our radar: La Grande Orange Grocery

What we think: Phoenix's trove of gourmet discoveries is a great place to find gifts for foodies, not to mention caffeine fiends. Those in the know describe Intelligentsia Coffee's top-shelf beans with the effusive adjectives usually reserved for premium wines. 602/840-7777. —M.J.