## Fresh Mex in Fremont

By Sara Billups



There's nothing like a good bowl of chips and salsa to bring people together. At Upper Fremont's Pecado Bueno, smartly priced fresh Mex, is served in a colorful atmosphere designed to let family diners happily co-exist with couples and groups of friends.

Pecado Bueno is an unpretentious and spirited California-style taqueria where just about anyone can sit back and relax. On warm days, a garage door in the main dining room rolls open, allowing eaters access to an outdoor patio featuring seating around raised fire pits. The just-loud-enough pop music and open floor plan work together to regulate noise.

Order at the counter from a menu that riffs off South-of-the-Border classics with healthy twists. Pecado Bueno cooks sans trans fats and offers organic and hormone-free meats. The kitchen also uses organic ingredients when possible.

Paying five dollars for a basket of chips might seem a little steep until the all-you-can-dip salsa bar comes into view. An extralarge serving of crispy corn chips can be drizzled with any combination of toppings and five salsas, including sweet pineapple

mango and kicky habanero. The pickled onions are particularly addictive.

Tacos are prepared with your choice of corn or flour tortillas, filled with pico and meat, and dressed in lime and avocado crema. The quesadilla is stuffed with a trio of cheeses and comes with sweet, nutty squash, or a range of meats. Three enchiladas dressed in green, red, or creamy ranchero sauce are plated with cilantro-spiked rice and a mound of tender black beans.

Pecado Bueno's simple kids menu includes a pint-sized quesadilla and mash of beans, rice, and butternut squash. Tacos can be added à la carte, so filling plates with the right balance of protein, veggies, and carbs is easy. Kids can sip freshly squeezed limeade while the over 21 crowd indulges in \$3, 100% agave tequila house margaritas.

A festive neighborhood place in a serotonin-inducing environment, Pecado Bueno is a good dining option for post-soccer games, Friday night dinners out, or date nights. Especially after considering that food for four can ring in at right around \$30 dollars. Can't get enough? Breakfast is served between 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekends.

## Pecado Bueno

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## Capitol Hill's Vios Refreshes its Interior

Another beloved family-friendly neighborhood eatery is undergoing a makeover. This month, Vios Café's original location on 19th Avenue is doubling its retail and to-go counter space and adding seating for larger groups and parties. Parents can rest-assured that through the expansion, Vios' well-loved play area will remain very much intact.

The proud parent of a rowdy two year old son and resident of the Lake City neighborhood, Sara Billups navigates the city's family-friendly dining options and writes about her favorites for a handful of Seattle-based publications.



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