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### Utah's South American Oasis

Those in search of a unique dining experience need look no further than Tucanos, a Brazilian grill located near the University Place shopping mall in Orem, just off of University Parkway. With its vibrant South American theme and mouthwatering cuisine, this restaurant is an excellent choice for those looking for something new.

One aspect of Tucanos' charm is its lively atmosphere. Customers will feel as if they've been transported straight to the heart of Brazil. The raised ceilings give the restaurant an open, spacious feel. The eye-catching greenery and tropical fruit are used to decorate the salad bar to create a fresh, tropical ambience, a stark contrast the dry desert of Utah. Although the lighting is rather dim, the large windows, colorful hanging lights, and vibrant stain-glass designs on the walls give the place a bright and vivacious atmosphere. The upbeat music also adds to the lively feel.

Menus are provided at Tucanos, but they are not necessary to enjoy the Brazilian "Churrasco," where guests are able to experience a wide variety of options with every visit. Once customers have ordered their beverages, they are free to enjoy the all-you-can-eat "Salad Festival" and grilled meats that are brought to their table periodically. Despite the many different options, however, it should be noted that Tucanos may not be a good option for vegans or vegetarians.

Despite the name, the Salad Festival includes much more than just salad. Among many other options, guests can enjoy crab sushi, pasta, and shrimp served with a tangy cocktail sauce.

Tucanos' Churrasco meats and grilled pineapple are brought to the table by the waiters and are served on skewers. Servers slice the meat and customers are given tongs to take their desired sample. Each table comes with a cue, which allows guests to decide when they want meat brought to them. The wide variety of freshly grilled meats include Frango Com Parmesão (parmesan chicken), Picanha (top sirloin), and Peru (turkey wrapped in bacon), just to name a few ("Restaurant Menu").

The vibrant flavors and freshness of the food at Tucanos provide for an absolutely exquisite meal. Every cut of meat is seasoned to perfection, thus preserving its fresh, natural flavors. The juicy grilled pineapple is fresh and not over sweetened. Their chipa, or Brazilian cheese bread, is piping hot and melts in the mouth. The crab sushi rolls have just enough spice that even those with sensitive palates won't find them too strong.

The food is not only pleasing to the tastebuds but to the eyes as well. Tucanos spares no expense when it comes to presentation. Many items in the Salad Festival are beautifully arrayed on platters over mounds of glittering ice, and they ensure that their produce is fresh and full of color. Additionally, their meats and grilled pineapple are perfectly browned every time.

Tucanos ensures that the restaurant is always clean and running smoothly. Their floors, windows, and tables are kept pristine and spotless. Hand sanitizer is provided at the Salad Festival and customers are required to use a new, clean plate with each visit. The Salad Festival itself is restocked regularly. When making their rounds, meat servers follow specific routes to remain time-efficient and avoid confusion.

The staff at Tucanos will go to great lengths to ensure that their customers feel valued. Server friendliness varies, and some may seem monotone and disinterested, but all of them are very professional and helpful. Waiters bring extra pitchers so that customers can get refills whenever they want. When guests are being seated, waiters will explain the cue and ask how a customer prefers their meat cooked. They will also take specific requests should customers ask for them.

Although the restaurant's location may be convenient, the parking can be somewhat bothersome. While there are plenty of stalls nearby, the restaurant's parking lot is quite small compared to its size. Because of this, finding a spot to park during the busier hours of the day can become difficult. Additionally, customers should be aware that parking time is limited to two hours.

Because of Tucanos' popularity it can become quite busy during weekends, holidays, and dinner hours. During such times, the wait time can be up to four hours. However, if one can make time for a weekday lunch, they can get in fairly quickly, and may even be seated right away.

Tucanos is by no means cheap, especially for families and other large groups. A lunch including the Churrasco and Salad Festival costs \$18 per adult, and dinner costs \$25. This does not include beverages, appetizers, or desserts. However, the unlimited supply of quality buffet items and choice meats is definitely worth the cost.

In short, Tucanos has high cleanliness standards and excellent food. The restaurant can be quite crowded at times, but the exceptional service allows the dining experience to run smoothly, and the lively atmosphere sets the mood for a delightful afternoon or evening. Those who pay a visit are sure to return again and again.

Works Cited

“Restaurant Menu.” *Tucanos Brazilian Grill*, <https://www.tucanos.com/menu>.