



**Home**  
**Features**  
**Entertainment**  
**Recreation**  
**Events**  
**Arts**  
**Dining**

## Dining



### Tastes: PJ's Bar & Grill

*"The service is exceptional. The ingredients are fresh. The dishes are delicious."*

By Nicole Cheslock

Something magical happens a few hundred feet after exiting Highway 267 onto Henness Road, just 12 miles from Lake Tahoe and merely a couple miles from historic downtown Truckee.

A short, peaceful drive (or bike) reveals hills, greenery and just a couple new mountain homes before PJ's Bar & Grill appears.

Overlooking expansive lawns, the venue couldn't be better for enjoying a relaxing snack, appetizer or meal. It's quiet. The service is exceptional. The ingredients are fresh. The dishes are delicious. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served daily.

Just moments after stepping out of my car, I received a friendly greeting and was asked if I'd like a lift from an employee driving a golf cart. It was obvious from the start that even though PJ's is no longer part of a private, members only club, the employees embrace and deliver first-class service.

If you didn't know about PJ's before reading this article, it's time to visit.

From 4 to 6 p.m. daily, PJ's offers a 50 percent discount on more than a handful of Shared Plates: Crispy Zucchini, Nachos Grande or Quesadilla with chicken or Tri Tip if you wish, Jumbo Prawn Cocktail, Buffalo Wings, Calamari with Lemon Aioli and Tri Tip Crostini. So for less than \$10, bring a date or friend and enjoy something scrumptious in a truly enchanting setting.

Salads and entrees also include a variety of tasty options. The fresh squeezed lemonade is perfect for a sunny afternoon. Paired with the Seafood Tacos – filled with tempura battered cod, cabbage, Pico de Gallo and a yummy cilantro lime dressing and served with beans and nacho chips with melted cheese – my afternoon meal was absolutely fulfilling.

Other entrees include hearty sandwiches such as the Fire Roasted Trip Tip Dip, Turkey Melt on Sourdough, Ahi Tuna with wasabi aioli and Cajun Chicken on a bun. Everything is well seasoned and will make you want to come back to try more. The Cajun Chicken includes a blackened chicken breast, bacon, Swiss, grilled onions, lettuce and tomato with whole grain mustard aioli. The half-pound Kobe burger is a staff favorite and based on the great tacos, I also recommend the Fish and Chips. Based on demand, PJ's also offers an evening dinner special – the weekday I was there, New York Sirloin was on the dinner menu.

Salads are grand in size and packed with flavor. The most popular salad is the Apple Chicken with field greens, green apples, plenty pieces of fire roasted chicken, sweet and spicy nuts, crumbled gorgonzola and a raspberry vinaigrette.

Additional salads include Asian Chicken with a soy ginger vinaigrette, roasted red peppers and mandarin oranges, Sierra Chop with romaine, black beans, Pico de Gallo, tortilla chips and Cesar Dressing, Traditional Caesar with or without chicken, trip tip or shrimp and the Tri Tip Gorgonzola with field greens, sweet onion, roasted red peppers, tomatoes and balsamic vinaigrette.

In addition to being an overall lovely experience, diners may learn a nugget or two by reading at the

menu, which includes a timeline with interesting facts such as the note for the year 1340 – there was a stained glass window depicting a game resembling modern golf in Gloucester Cathedral in England. Breakfast and children's menu are diverse and include hearty and tasty dishes.

Find out what other diners are saying and see more photos of PJ's Bar and Grill by visiting The Golf Club at Gray's Crossing Facebook page.

PJ's Bar and Grill, named for golf professional Peter Jacobsen, is located at 11406 Henness Road in Truckee. Breakfast is served from 6:30 to 11 a.m. and the lunch/dinner menu is served from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Daily happy hour deals, offered from 4 to 6 p.m., include a 50 percent discount on appetizers and \$1 off beers. For more information, call (530) 550-5801.

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