THE OKLAHOMAN

FOOD

Dive into dining at OKANA: What to try at the resort's big 4 restaurants and more



By now you're likely acquainted with the idea of OKANA Resort and Indoor Waterpark, even if you haven't visited the sprawling resort, which covers about 40 acres.

And while OKANA's beach and outdoor water attractions are set to close Sept. 14, the indoor park remains open year-round meaning you can plan a family vacation any time and knowing where to eat when you're on site is an important part of that.

Plus, the four largest restaurants at OKANA, including its two standalone concepts — Curveball Kitchen and Smokehouse Social, both located outside the main resort building — are all open to diners who aren't staying at the resort as well.

So whether you're planning a vacation or staycation at OKANA or just dropping by for dinner one night, here's a look at the resort's dining options and some of the best menu items from the big four restaurants.

Chido Tacos X Tequila



Located on the second floor of the resort, across from the arcade, Chido Tacos X Tequila is one part cantina, one part taqueria, all parts flavor bomb. Chef Devan Manuel channels the flavors of Mexico with new menu items like roasted street corn and tortas being added to an already flavorful lineup.

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For those wanting to enjoy the bar, a full lineup of flavorful cocktails and margaritas awaits or you can just order a flight of tequilas for tasting.

Can't miss menu items: Rocket shrimp tacos, the Chido bowl and chef's take on tostadas. Also be sure to order the churros for dessert.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Bar open until midnight.

Curveball Kitchen



The newest concept to open at OKANA, Curveball Kitchen features classic and elevated ball park favorites alongside the option to rent out batting bays and swing away with up to 11 of your friends.

Menus are as loaded as the bases awaiting a grand slam slugger with tons of hot dog and mac and cheese options, sliders, wings and more. The full bar ensures a number of cocktail options.

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Bays are \$75 an hour and party packages are available.

Can't miss menu items: Chicago dogs, blues BBQ pork mac and cheese, sweet potato fries and the monster shot skillet cookie for dessert(it comes topped with ice cream).

Hours: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday.

Jack Rabbit



Chef Caleb Stangroom, formerly of Bradford House, recently took over the kitchen at Jack Rabbit and is working to bring his signature flair to the menu. Look for rotating entree and dessert specials as Stangroom feels out a menu that fits the needs of the resort and his style.

Plus, don't miss his use of the in-house pasta maker as he begins to add new items to the menu.

And as with the other OKANA restaurants, the beverage program has plenty of great options at Jack Rabbit, whether you're in the mood for something a bit stronger — like an earl grey old fashioned or pecan-hazelnut espresso martini — or want something on the lighter fruitier side, like the blackberry mojito or blueberry spritz.

Can't miss menu items: Be sure to stop in for happy hour and grab Stangroom's bacon-wrapped dates. Also try the crab cake, wagyu burger and rotating semifreddo dessert special.

Hours: Breakfast buffet: 7 to 11 a.m. Lunch: Noon to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Dinner and bar: 5 to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 5 to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Smokehouse Social



Chef Brandon Edwards helms this one-of-a-kind barbecue joint located outside the main resort at OKANA. Edwards is currently

revamping and adding to the menu, bringing guests new options like Nashville hot chicken sliders and loaded mac and cheese and loaded fry offerings.

Guests also can still take part in Edwards' signature experience when ordering his longbone ribeye platter, which is set aflame tableside providing dinner and a show for guests.

At Smokehouse Social you'll also find family friendly fun in the form of simulator bays offering multiple sports and games — including golf, football, soccer, bowling, archery and more — for \$50 per hour for parties of up to 12.

Can't miss menu items: Sampler board (new addition coming soon to the menu), smoked chicken wings, longbone ribeye. Be sure to finish off with the banana pudding parfait for dessert.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday.

Additional OKANA dining options

When stopping by OKANA you can also check out <u>Market 56</u>, the resort's quick-stop spot for house-made pastries, fresh sandwiches, salads, and Starbucks coffee and <u>OKANA Candy Co.</u>, the resort's home for candy and craft ice cream.

If you're staying at the resort, there are a slew of additional food and beverage choices available to you that you can only access with a waterpark pass or hotel stay.

Hotel and waterpark guests have exclusive access to <u>Pie Lab</u>, <u>Sliders</u>, <u>Waterbyrd</u>, <u>Kaya</u>, <u>Frosty Flamingo</u>, <u>Dive Bar</u> and <u>Okasis</u>.