

Local Dishes That Will Blast Your Face Off: Rose Alley's San Juan Challenge

Attention Chili-heads or people who enjoy watching their friends and family who are chili-heads, suffer immensely: here are five dishes within a short drive to put a hurting on you from lips to er...exit. Some even have challenges attached to them, for those who want a few minutes of local fame.

So what is the point of eating something so hot? This is an often asked question and one I'd like to reply with by borrowing George Mallory's iconic response: "Because it's there."

There is a common misconception that chili-heads simply go for the hottest thing possible at every meal. Truth is we like heat, but the painful experiences are reserved for special occasions. There is a rather large variety flavor recipes to many of the bottled sauces on the market. Peppers can roasted, an assortment of citrus flavor from lime, orange, mango, pineapple, papaya, and even chocolate and cinnamon.

So whether you are looking for a challenge or have a bad case of Schadenfreude and want to watch your "stupid" friends suffer, I present five dishes you can find within an hour's drive that will force you to ask the question "What did I get myself into?" and cry out "I WANT MY MOMMY!" Click on the title of each and it'll lead you to their prospective website. Here is #1 ...

Rose Alley's San Juan Challenge

You are really missing out if you've never had Rose's Alley's wings or don't experience them on a regular basis. Some would

call you a communist. They offer bone-in, boneless, traditional Buffalo, Buffaque (Barbecue & Buffalo), BBQ, Gold Digger, "Rose"-ambique (Mozambique), or Tennessee Bourbon. There is also a variety of dry rubs like Chipotle BBQ, Jamaican Jerk, Lemon Pepper Garlic and Herb, Ranch, and Butter Garlic Spicy Habanero. You can get servings from 1/2 lb. up to 3 lbs for boneless and 10-50 for bone-in.

On Sundays during Football season from 1:00-11:00 pm, it's all you can eat wings for \$8- with a purchase of a beverage. Combine all this and you get an experience that is so good that you'll feel like you're doing something wrong.

But this is a crappy article about destroying your lower intestines and colon with food that resembles napalm, so let's get to the goods – the Buffalo and Buffaque can be ordered in four levels of heat: mild, medium, hotness & lava. Mild and medium are for mortals and pretenders. The hotness pushes the envelope – for wimps, kids, and girly-men. Real men and women go directly to the "lava" and subsequent hiccups, sweating, and ice cube chewing. I call this a Tuesday night.

As with many places that offer above-average hot dishes, Rose Alley has a challenge for the truly brave: The San Juan Challenge. The heat level with the San Juan Challenge is called "suicidal" and you need *cajones grandes* to take it on. Some would say it requires a you to be a real *stupido* too. They're obviously wrong.

The \$20 challenge dictates that you have 20 minutes to eat as many hot wings as you possibly can. If you beat the challenge – which Urban Legend has it at 21 by Nick Dompierre – they won't charge you for your suffering! It's free! C'mon Gringos, get down there and take the challenge and send us pictures of you weeping!

Next up ... **East Coast Grill's Pasta From Hell.**

