



Contact: Stacy Pearson
Rose & Allyn Public Relations
Office: 480.423.1414
Cell: 602.577.6888
Email: spearson@roseandallynpr.com

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Santana to open eatery in Tempe **Maria Maria, due in 2008, will feature Mexico City-style cuisine**

Cathryn Creno
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A new restaurant created by Carlos Santana is expected to open at Tempe Marketplace in early 2008.

Maria Maria, named for Santana's Grammy-winning song, will feature Mexico City-style cuisine and soundtrack music by the rock legend, the Nation's Restaurant News reports.

The Tempe restaurant is among the first of a national chain, which will debut next week in Walnut Hills, Calif.

New York chef Roberto Santibañez, who was born in Mexico City and is known for popularizing that style of cuisine in the United States, created the menu.

Tempe Marketplace developer Vestar has not released details about the opening of Maria Maria, but a map on the shopping center Web site indicates the restaurant is "coming soon."

Restaurant News says that the food at Maria Maria will be along the lines of shredded duck tacos with roasted- tomato-habanero cream sauce and ancho chiles stuffed with roasted zucchini, red onions, tomatoes and mushrooms.

The bill will be about \$17 per person.

Santana also is said to be developing a more upscale Mexican-food restaurant called Santana's, which will open in Las Vegas in 2009.