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Jimmy Schmidt is executive chef at La Quinta Resort & Club's Morgan's in the desert. Submitted photo

Written by
Pamela Bieri
Special to The Desert Sun

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Thursday all-day happy hour, Sunday prime rib, a new sous chef at Fantasy Springs and buffet breakfast with singer/musician Greg Lake are some of the culinary happenings afoot in the east valley.

New sous chef

Adam Solowitz traces his interest in food back to his childhood helping his father in his Village Bake Shop in Palm Springs, and his mother in her deli.

Solowitz recently came aboard as executive sous chef at Fantasy Springs Resort Casino.

"It is very surreal because I grew up watching the casino business evolve in the Coachella Valley; to now be part of it and play a key role is amazing," he said.

Solowitz earned a degree in culinary arts from the California School of Culinary Arts Le Cordon Blue program in Pasadena. His career began at Santa Monica's elegant Jonathan Beach Club. He returned to the desert to work for Fleming's Prime Steakhouse in Rancho Mirage, the Purple Palm at the Colony Palms Hotel in Palm Springs and Indian Ridge Country Club in Palm Desert. Most recently he was banquet chef at a major hotel property.

Happy Thursday

All-night happy hour on Thursday at Arnold Palmer's Restaurant offers 50 percent off the bar menu, \$5 well mixed drinks, house wine and \$4 on selected beers.

Live entertainment in the lounge continues nightly.

Schmidt honored

James Beard Award-winning Executive Chef Jimmy Schmidt of Morgan's in the desert was one of four chefs to be featured at the James Beard 5th annual VIP dinner in New York earlier this month. Schmidt was also one of 25 chefs from across America to have a dish featured at the 2012 James Beard 25th anniversary gala reception.

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His dish, Roman and Jerusalem Artichoke with Pasilla Vinaigrette, was served to a group of 200 foundation board members and guests at a VIP four-course tasting menu.

Schmidt won the prestigious James Beard Award for "best Chef Midwest" in 1993 for his work at Rattlesnake Club in Detroit. Sous chef Brian Recor from Morgan's in the desert, restaurant general manager John Healy, and Schmidt's wife Jo Marie accompanied Schmidt at the Beard Foundation event.

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