



Valley, and the bar offers "nine fine beers" on tap, as well as "nine fine specialty drinks" (the Irish Car Bomb and the Baby Guinness shots are two of our favorites) and a respectable wine list. If that's not reason enough to stop by, there's excellent entertainment throughout the week. *Inside New York-New York*, 740-6463.

Best Chain Restaurant Concept

"Cowboy cool" is one thing; getting everybody to be diggity with it, well, that's something else. Yet that's exactly what's happening at the **Roadrunner Saloons**, a small chain of 24-hour bar-restaurants that manages not only a steady clientele but one that is probably more familiar with Ghostbar at the Palms than "Ghost Riders in the Sky." A large part of the credit goes to the design, starting with the exterior, which we'll call "21st Century Vegas Ranch": wood, stone and steel put together handsomely with a colorful nod to the Southwest aesthetic. Yet there's a wink, too. The interior looks as if Lyle Lovett were the design consultant, with the ubiquitous tip of the Stetson to cowboy culture (like the sheet-metal steer-head lamps) mingling with more modern ideas (the big neon bowling sign that purposely overstates the two-lane mini alley). And when it comes down to a sweet young thang wearing a sheriff's badge recommending the Dr Pepper-marinated steak tacos, you should take them both seriously. 754 S. Boulder Hwy., Henderson, 566-9999; 6910 E. Lake Mead Blvd., 459-1889; 921 N. Buffalo Rd., 242-2822; 9820 W. Flamingo Rd., 243-5329; 2430 E. Pebble Rd., Henderson, 948-8282.

Best Happy Hour

With happy hour at **Kona Grill's** Arizona locations already an institution, the owner recently branched out, and Summerlin residents have responded heartily. Opened in September, Kona Grill offers a happy hour from 3 to 7 p.m. weekdays that includes half-price specials on selected appetizers, such as chicken satay, Maui tacos,

Kona calamari, as well as island pizzas (among them five-spice barbecue chicken and shiitake goat-cheese). The drink specials include \$2 margaritas for ladies (\$3 for men), \$2 16-ounce Bud Light and selected martinis for \$3. The best value? The half-priced sushi and \$4.25 saki bombers. Stick around and you'll hit the bonus round: There's a reverse happy hour 9 to 11 Monday through Thursday and 10 to midnight Friday and Saturday. *Inside Fashion Village at Boca Park*, 750 S. Rampart Blvd., 547-5552.

Best New Grocery Store

We don't like grocery shopping any more than you do. But that changed the day we stepped inside the new **Whole Foods Market** on the outskirts of Summerlin. Imagine shopping and never having to cook again, yet feasting nightly on such healthful delicacies as couscous salad and sesame-crusted salmon. Now you know what it's like to shop Whole Foods. Its shelves are stocked with an endless variety of items, including 300-plus cheeses, freshly baked pastries, snack foods galore, dry-aged meats and black-tip shark. But it's the vast Prepared Foods Department with its "olives from around the world" and fresh sushi bar that whet our appetite. Wellness isn't neglected either, as an enormous selection of vitamins, minerals, holistic cosmetics and health aids are also available. This is more than just a grocery; it's a lifestyle. 8855 W. Charleston Blvd., 254-8655.

Best European Import

Don't speak a lick of German? Here's some incentive: the **Hofbräuhaus** is opening soon. Lesson One: *Schwemme* means "beer hall," where up to 380 people can feast on authentic Austrian cuisine and hoist authentic steins full of beer from the fatherland. Lesson Two: *Biergarten* means "beer garden," where more than 400 others can drink among the large chestnuts and Bavarian sky. Lesson Three: *Biergartenkultur* is "beer garden culture," and that's what happens in the