

Q&A

CATCHING UP WITH MICHAEL ZISLIS OF SHADE HOTEL

Michael photographed at his new restaurant, Mucho Ultima Mexicana, a few short weeks from opening day.



**Q:** We had a fantastic time at our Advertiser Appreciation party at Shade. How are things at the hotel?

**A:** I am very fortunate to have an amazing staff at Shade, we are running high occupancy year round and are constantly looking at innovative ways in keeping our customer service standards high. The next phase for Shade is taking it outside of the South Bay, capturing those visitors that never would have thought to stay on this side of town. We are lucky to live, work and play in MB and I would love to share that with a greater audience!

**Q:** We all have our eye on your new restaurant project. Tell us a little about it.

**A:** Before Shade, I was trying to open up a high-end Mexican restaurant in the Metlox center. The MBCC didn't think the city needed another Mexican restaurant. Real estate is very scarce here, and when I heard Michis was closing, I decided to go after it. Mucho Ultima Mexicana is on schedule to open in November and will feature our own twist on authentic regional Mexican cuisine. I know it will be a great combination of food, service, and atmosphere!

**Q:** Any other ventures on the horizon?

**A:** My wife and I just had a baby, Milla Grace, and between her, family, Shade and all the restaurants I should have my plate full, but I am never one to pass on an opportunity. The possibility of creating a Shade hotel brand is exciting and a concept I am seriously considering. I am also looking to expand ROCK 'N FISH, I just believe that in order to create a great restaurant you need to be there to run it. I am looking into some beach front real estate opportunities as well.

**Q:** With the holidays coming up,

what's at the top of your "must-have" list?

**A:** Nothing really. I have an amazing wife, new baby, great kids, great staff, great businesses. I'm blessed! Maybe some time off. Yes, time off is a MUST have for me right now! I want to go back to Australia and New Zealand. It was the best eating I have ever done. Hmmm...maybe a Smart car

**Q:** What does Andrea have her eye on?

**A:** My wife has her eye on a stopover at the St. Regis in Tahiti to decompress en route to our Australian getaway. Some additional sleeping time would be great! •

Photo by Phil Earl.