Readers’ Favorite North County Restaurants

2008 Kitchen Contest Winner
23 Great Things About Downtown
Simon Fashion Now
San Diego Sizzle
Wolfgang Puck
Philanthropic Players

Padres first baseman, Adrian Gonzalez, and his wife, Betsy, recently established The Adrian and Betsy Gonzalez Foundation to help underprivileged children in athletics, education, and health. The foundation’s inaugural event was a celebrity dinner that took place at Acqua Al 2, where Adrian took charge in the kitchen as executive chef for the evening and several of his teammates including Kevin Kouzmanoff, Nick Hundley, Edgar Gonzalez, and Chase Headly suited up to bartend, cook, and serve guests a fine five-course Italian dinner with wine pairings. Guests also bid on live auction items and met the players. The money raised benefits children’s autism research, a cause that is close to the family of Martin Gonzalez, Acqua Al 2’s owner/chef.

— Jane Shiomi, photo by Bob Stefanko