



ANCIENT CITY APPETITE

BY JOSHUA BAER

SHAKE FOUNDATION

631 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe

Daily, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Major credit cards

505 988-8992

Everything on the menu is delicious, but it would be a shame to miss these dishes:

Double Green Chile Cheeseburger with Jack Cheese and Garlic Mayonnaise: \$6.50

Fried Oyster Sandwich with Red Chile Mayonnaise: \$5.50.

Green Chile Stew: \$3.50 Regular, \$5.50 Large.

Adobe Mud Shakes: \$5.75; with Malt, \$6.25

Affogato: \$4.50.

The first time you go, don't expect to be overwhelmed. If you go between noon and one, you might have complaints about the line, or about how long it took to fill your order. The second time you go is when the pleasant surprises begin. Each bite of the double green chile cheeseburger is better than the one before it. The red chile mayonnaise in the fried oyster sandwich is a franchise all by itself. If you order a regular green chile stew and sip the broth from the paper cup while you wait for your burger you'll appreciate why New Mexico green chile enjoys worldwide acclaim.

Many of the regulars at Shake Foundation drink their shakes while they eat their burgers. An equally valid approach is to have the burger as your entrée and your shake or affogato as dessert. After a ten or fifteen minute wait, good things happen to the ice cream. It doesn't melt so much as age into something rich and special.

Santa Fe offers the green chile cheeseburger aficionado a variety of good options. Santa Fe Bite, formerly the classic Bobcat Bite out on Las Vegas Highway, now relocated to the southeast corner of the Alameda and Old Santa Fe Trail, understands that simplicity is the key ingredient in a great burger. The double green chile cheeseburger at Bert's Burger Bowl, on the northeast corner of Guadalupe and Catron, is as much a part of Santa Fe culture as Fiesta, metallic dark red Monte Carlos, skin tight jeans, and Zozobra. At the corporate, professionally slick, sports bar end of the spectrum, 5 Star Burger, in the De Vargas Shopping Center at the north end of Guadalupe Street, offers what they call a "gourmet burger." The green chile cheeseburger version of 5 Star's gourmet burger holds its own against every other burger in town. But when it comes to the dependable joy of eating a green chile cheeseburger on a daily basis, Shake Foundation stands out, in a *prima inter pares* kind of way. Warning: Shake's food grows on you. It creates cravings. If you go at three or four p.m. on a fall afternoon, you'll be back for more at the same time the next day.

Ancient City Appetite recommends places to eat, in and out of Santa Fe. The photograph is by Guy Cross. Send the names of your favorite places to places@ancientcityappetite.com.