

BLAINE AND ALISON DRY OPEN NEW RESTAURANT IN FORT MYERS

# Tino's Southwest Kitchen

WRITTEN BY BRIAN JOHNSON



Alison and Blaine Dry with Hugo Hernandez and Noemi Carreto

**B**laine and Alison Dry, long known on Sanibel and Captiva for their role in making Cip's Place one of the most popular Island restaurants, have opened a new restaurant in Fort Myers, Tino's Southwest kitchen.

Located within the Publix plaza at the corner of Summerlin and Winkler, it serves homemade dishes such as quesadillas, tacos, ceviche, oven roasted chimichangas and enchiladas.

"We are finding that residents in this area are excited to have another neighborhood restaurant close by," said Alison. "We wanted to create an atmosphere that feels like coming in to someone's home and enjoying a homemade meal."

Tino's Southwest Kitchen has all the best qualities of a family-run business.

Blaine and Alison are hands-on and make sure everything is done to the highest standards.

Blaine's family lived for many years in Corpus Christi, Texas and that's where he became a fan of Southwest cuisine. "His family always loved and cooked this style of food," said Alison.

Blaine, along with his Sous Chef Hugo Hernandez, have custom designed a menu that includes a variety of tacos served on homemade corn tortillas, oven roasted Chimichangas made with beef brisket that has been smoked in house, and enchiladas topped with New Mexico Hatch Chile sauce to name just a few favorites. Seafood items such as ceviche, vegetarian items, salads and gluten free options are available as well.

They opened the business in

early 2019 after taking over from the previous owner. They gave the restaurant a fresh new look by creating a light and bright ambience with glicies of cactus and desert scenes. Alison's friend Claudia Leah of Claudia Leah Designs based in Naples, developed the fresh new look.

Blaine and Alison started a catering business in Naples in 1998 and then became part of a family ownership group that launched Cip's Place in 2010 on Sanibel Island. Blaine remains as Chef at Cip's Place as well as overseeing the kitchen at Tino's. In 2017, they moved from Sanibel to South Fort Myers, in part to be closer to their daughter's schools; Dahlia, 18 is set to graduate from Fort Myers High School this year while Julia, 16, attends Cypress lake High School. ●