

Jamaican jerked Mahi Mahi in Northern Minnesota? And this Thursday it's REALLY special...

Dear Rebecca,

I know you're still trying to decide whether or not you'll make the drive up here from Minneapolis this week. But what if I told you we could have a little Caribbean get-away if you do? Wouldn't that be good after the past few weeks of 'blizzard blues'? I'm telling you this is the ticket...

The place is called ***The Whistling Bird***pretty trendy for this neck of the woods, wouldn't you say?

It's about 20 miles from home-in Gilbert. Yeah, I know, it sounds off the beaten path. I guess it is...but somehow that seems to make it more fun for people to head there. You wouldn't believe how often it's packed. Not like any other restaurant around here, that's for sure.

I mean you'll forget where you are, the minute you leave your parka and mitts at the little palm tree coat check---you've to see it to believe it! Then you just follow the island music to the thatched roof bar area.

Imported beers? They've got 18 different labels. And rum and coke takes on a whole new taste with a choice of rums from Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad...you name it. But it's those two dozen different umbrella drinks that seem to go especially well with the whole setting and the music. People are up and dancing to steel drum tunes in-between nibbling on appetizers like red curry mussels ...or the rum BBQ port flatbread...or the conch fritters.

And you never know who you'll run into there...anyone from old classmates to weekend skiers from over at Giant's Ridge. I even bumped into our cousin Mike there right before Christmas. I mean it's just a great place to hang out and listen to the bartenders and the other customers' jokes...not to mention this one server who's an incredible story teller.

He's actually from Jamaica, so he's telling you all about customs and the jambalaya his mother makes. And the whole time, he's getting you settled at a table, helping you make choices, and then whisking back in almost no time with heaping plates that smell out of this world.

It's all just so much fun!. I don't know....maybe all those bright colored walls in there have something to do with it---and the music and everybody laughing and talking. You just feel good from the minute you walk in the door.

Oh, yeah--and by the way--***The Whistling Bird's*** menu choices will blow you away.....it's like nothing else around here. Even the dishes that are more American. Some of our favorites so far are Island Coconut Chicken, Lamb Curry, Pan Seared Ahi Tuna, Rasta Pasta, and Black 'n Bleu -ecstasy in the form of a Cajun-Gorgonzola sirloin. We try something different every time, and it's ALWAYS so good. Everybody raves about the food-and not just us locals...

After only 18 months of being in business, ***The Whistling Bird's*** been featured in the Minneapolis Daily News Out and About Supplement, as well as in the August 2014 issue of Eating Out in America.

But what I was going to tell you is that they have a JERKED MAHI MAHI SPECIAL FOR 2--FOR \$30 this Thursday. That works out to about half the regular price of \$26. It's one of their specialties, so they like to feature it with some special trimmings like this once or twice a year. And it IS good...."like you down on dee Island, sistah"...

So, now that my mouth is already watering, tell me you're coming... Call me TODAY while I can still get us a reservation for Thursday.

Seriously, you're going to love *The Whistling Bird*. And, if we get snowed in there, well I could think of worse fates...

First *Dos Equis* is on me!

Carol