

'Agave' offering diners a change of scenery

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Tamara and Tony Casillas enjoy a packed house for the opening of their new restaurant, Agave.

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The red carpet was out on Saturday night for the grand opening of Flower Mound's latest restaurant, Agave, co-owned by Tony Casillas. Decked out in jeans and a button up, Casillas was casual and attentive of guests, meeting all with a handshake and a hug. The two-time Super Bowl Champion and former Dallas Cowboy hosted around 300 hungry and thirsty crowd members. The invite-only event allowed for guests to eat and drink for free and to mingle with other area residents in the sleek lounge section, decorated with low lighting and black leather ottomans. "We obviously need another good Tex-Mex Restaurant, but this is just a different kind of concept. You know, you always want to find a place to relax and sit around and lounge," said Tony.

Casillas' restaurant, at 5801 Long Prairie Road, with a top capacity of 250, is decorated in dark tones with ambient lighting throughout. Brightly colored artwork adds another dimension to the elegant restaurant. The guest of honor was accompanied by his wife, Tamara, and his father, Pete Casillas. "He always talked about opening one of these, but I didn't realize it was going to be this fabulous," Pete said. "He always accomplishes his goals. He's a self-made man, I guess. Or, it must be the beans and tortillas I fed him." Tony agrees. "This is a great area, so why not start here? Now people don't have to go all the way to Dallas to have a place like this," he said. An hour into the event, 150 of the 329 guests had arrived said Rachel Orwig, who was in charge of the guest list. "It's been an amazing turnout. People are bringing guests and it's even more than we expected," she said. "I think it's just awesome; we needed another Mexican restaurant in this area, so this is really great!"

The restaurant offers an array of Tex-Mex cuisine, and a few new inventions such as the Jalapeno Meat Loaf. Guest enjoyed samplings of different varieties of stuffed jalapenos, chicken and steak quesadillas, a new take on Ceviche, alongside chips and home-made salsa. "I like people, I like Tex-Mex, I like good food and I like to go to places. When I go out I want go to places where I can eat and also where I can stay and watch the football game and kick back. It's kind of all those things that made me want to get into it," Tony said. The first time restaurateur hopes to be a hit among area residents. "This is a very open environment, and it sticks to the urban-chic décor and has a great atmosphere," said Amanda Evans.