

PRESS DEMOCRAT

Dining Deals

Worried about the economy? You can still indulge in a fine dining experience without the pocketbook guilt

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THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Uncle Sam demands his due this month, “For Sale” signs linger like insensitive guests on front lawns, and the roiling stock market has managed to wrench even the most stalwart stomachs.

When the going gets this tough, we all yearn for something soothing and satisfying to make us feel on top of the world again. A sweet deal on a meal is the best of both worlds, enabling us to rationalize the pleasure without abandoning it.

In Wine Country, it’s easy to indulge champagne tastes on a beer budget if you shop around, look for decadence in small doses and

are willing to go out on a Wednesday, say, instead of a weekend night.

Here’s how to scale back your tab without forgoing the sublime pleasure of an indulged tummy.

TUESDAY SPECIAL: At **Nick’s Cove** in Marshall, overlooking Tomales Bay, you’re swept back in time by the nostalgic 1930s decor. But the modern-day prices can be a shock.

That’s why locals from Point Reyes to Petaluma show up on Tuesday nights, when the upscale restaurant offers an affordable special made from local ingredients, plus cheap draft beers (\$3) and free music. On a recent Tuesday, the entree consisted of a full pound of sweet and spicy Petaluma chicken wings with blue cheese dressing for just \$10.

Open for lunch Thursday through Monday, and for dinner Thursday through Tuesday. 23240 Highway 1, (415) 663-1033.