

LA POSTA DE MESILLA RESTAURANT AND CANTINA

OUR STORY

The year was 1939. Franklin Roosevelt was President of the United States, the World Fair in New York would make its debut, England and France declare war on Germany, the Green Bay Packers win the Pro Football Championship, the New York Yankees win the World Series, and several movie classics reach the big screen including the *Wizard of Oz* and the Academy Award Winner, *Gone with the Wind*.

Additionally, on September 16th of the same year, on the corner of a dirt street plaza in Mesilla, New Mexico, where in 1854, a historical ceremony was held recognizing the consummation of the Gadsden Purchase, in a building that for many years, operated as a Butterfield Stagecoach Stop and the Corn Exchange Hotel, a 25 year old Katy Griggs, niece of one of the more renown merchant families in Mesilla, opened a “little chile joint” and named it La Posta. Her uncle, Edgar Griggs, loved his niece and appreciated her vivacious personality so much, that he actually sold his young niece the property that would be La Posta for “*one dollar, love and affection*”. With just four tables on a dirt floor, her mother cooking in the back of the same room with no running water, Katy greeted guests and manned the cash register. Katy welcomed each table with a free bowl of tostadas and chile, a tradition she is believed to have started in the Mesilla Valley in 1939 and still exists and which we today refer to as chips and salsa – a staple of the Southwestern diet. Katy quickly gained a reputation as a hard working, shrewd but smart businesswoman. Over the years, La Posta became a favorite dining spot for locals and visitors alike. It was not unusual to find yourself dining next to a head of state or visiting dignitaries. Rumor has it that such famous personalities, as Sam Donaldson, Val Kilmer, Cheryl Crow, Sam Elliott and George Foreman to mention a few, have dined here on occasion. In fact, a few former Presidents have enjoyed La Posta “To Go”!

But clearly, this was Katy’s “chile joint”. Until she passed away in 1993, you would still find her in the kitchen or visiting with guests, sharing a few jokes that [today](#) might make a sailor blush. More than often, you could find Katy slipping out the back door and loading up the trunk of her car with freshly prepared food to deliver to those in need. She was quite the lady!

If Katy were alive today, she would contribute her many years of success to God's blessing and having wonderful and dedicated people working for her, some of whom have been part of the La Posta family for 10, 20, 30, and yes, over 40 years! She would also be pleasantly surprised to learn that only the second U.S. Navy ship (SSN 779) in the history of the state to be named the USS New Mexico named their galley after her "chile joint" – yes, Katy's chile joint, La Posta – from a small town in Mesilla, NM to La Posta "*down under*" – now serving aboard the USS New Mexico submarine 3000 leagues under the sea. And just a few years ago, USA Today named La Posta as one of the "Ten Great Restaurants for Mexican Food" in the United States. Perhaps the least known part of our history is Katy's younger sister, Connie, and her husband Jack Thomas, opened up their little "Taco Joint" in Albuquerque in 1962, with many of the same recipes handed down from La Posta, famously known as EL PINTO!

In 1996, Katy's great niece, Jerean Camunez Hutchinson, and her husband, "Hutch", a retired Navy Captain, acquired the property and business, thus keeping in "La Familia". Jerean and Hutch, now along with their adult children, Christopher and Elena, always strive to carry on Katy's legacy of community outreach, great service, distinct & tasty New Mexican cuisine with the most creative & finest margaritas around! For more than 85 years La Posta de Mesilla has provided the best in Mexican food, steaks, tequila and margaritas – served daily in a 150 plus year old historic adobe on the National Register of Historic Places!