

Francine And Christin Ramos

A close-up photograph of a white bowl filled with frozen yogurt. The yogurt is topped with fresh fruit: sliced kiwi, strawberries, and banana. A red spoon is inserted into the yogurt. The background is a blurred green surface.

Yogaberry FROZEN YOGURT

Treat Yourself to Town Center's
Newest Guilty Pleasure

By Lynn Machon
Photos by Stephanie Smith Photos

Yogaberry

a S FAR AS OCCUPATIONS GO, FRANCINE AND CHRISTIN RAMOS may just have the best job in the world.

The self-described yogurt fanatics, who look more like sisters than mother and daughter, are enjoying sweet success as the owners of the new Yogaberry, in El Dorado Hills' Town Center.

The trendy, self-serve frozen yogurt shop, the only one of its kind in the area, has become wildly popular with locals. The catchy name combines "yogurt" and "berries", symbolizing the shop's signature natural, tart-based yogurt and fresh fruit toppings.

Yogaberry's grand opening, ironically over Mothers Day weekend, was a dream come true nearly two years in the making for Francine and her only daughter.

When the Ramos women first decided to go into business together, they weren't sure what they wanted to do, but knew where they wanted to be. "We really liked Town Center and the whole area in general. The people who work around here are amazing," explains Christin, 22, who's a senior at UC Berkeley.

Still exploring business options, one day Christin visited a self-serve yogurt place in Santa Barbara, called her mom excitedly and said, "I've got it."

According to Francine, they immediately submitted design sketches to Mansour Company developers, who agreed the Yogaberry concept was a great use for the unique space. From that point on, she says, the construction process took another year and a half to complete.

By all accounts, the wait was well worth it. Despite Yogaberry's somewhat tucked-away location – it's around the corner from Café Campanile and underneath the bell tower – the Ramos' couldn't be happier.

And while the establishment may be tiny, Yogaberry's charming outdoor patio, decorated with strings of white lights, provides ample seating. What's more, it is adjacent to the garden-like Lake Plaza, with gorgeous views overlooking the water.

Yogaberry's product itself is unique, prepared from an all-natural base with the highest active and live beneficial culture levels available. Without giving up trade secrets, Francine explains, "It's a top of the line, healthy, really good yogurt. It tastes completely rich and creamy, but it's fat free and comes with all the health benefits of yogurt."

Three self-serve machines dispense six different, rotating flavors, both tart-based and "ice cream like" sweet ones such as cookies and cream and pina colada.

Yogaberry toppings include fresh – never frozen – diced fruits such as strawberries, kiwi and pineapple, along with syrups, pure honey, and 24 different



The trendy, self-serve frozen yogurt shop, the only one of its kind in the area, has become wildly popular with locals.



WELCOME TO YOUR
HOME SUITE HOTEL



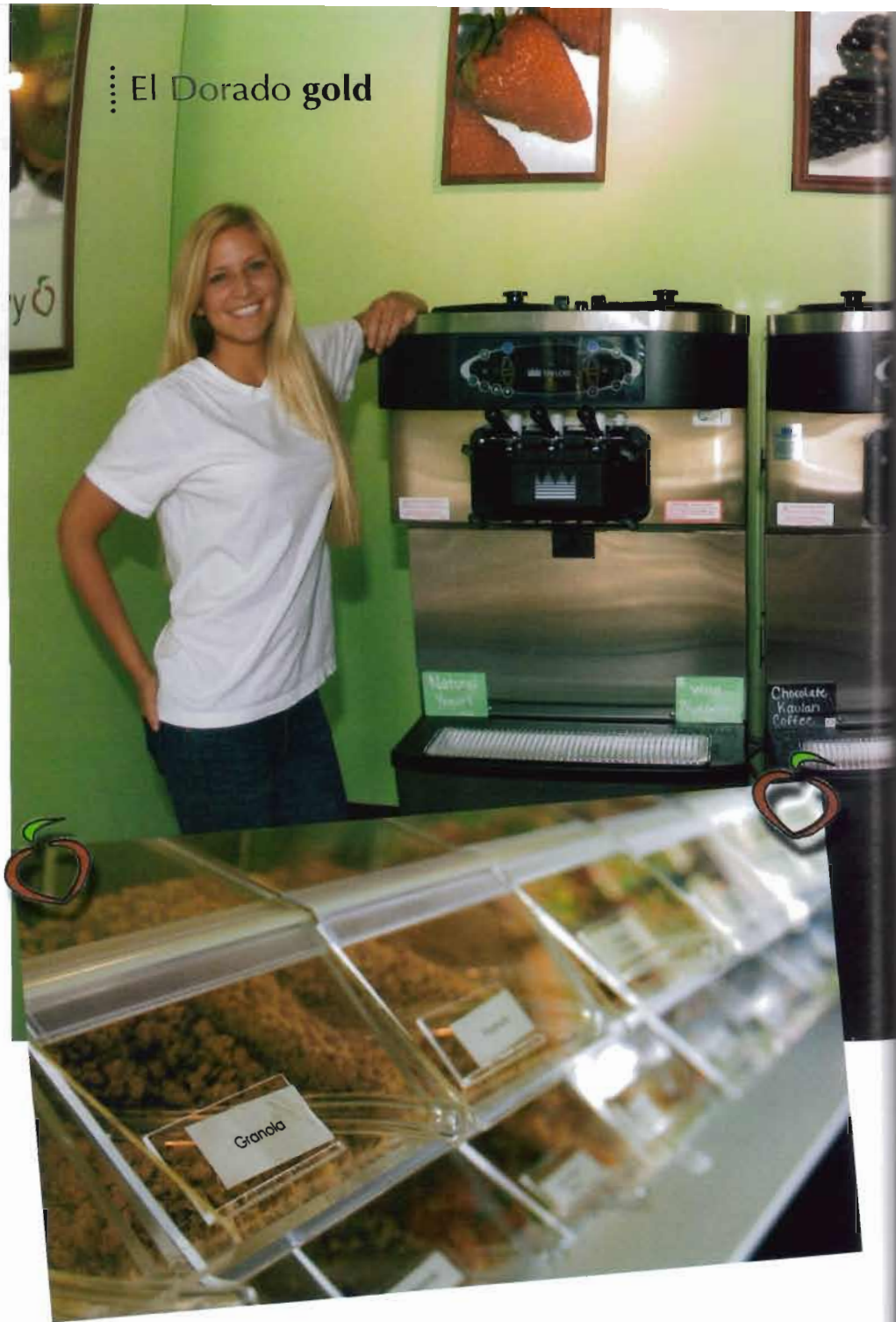
THE LARKSPUR LANDING
FOLSOM FEATURES:

- THE FEATHERBORNE® BED
- FREE INTERNET ACCESS
- FREE BUSINESS CENTER
- IN-ROOM KITCHEN

THE LARKSPUR LANDING IS
CONVENIENTLY LOCATED
WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE TO
RESTAURANTS, CINEPLEX AND
THE PREMIUM OUTLET MALL.

LARKSPUR LANDING FOLSOM
121 IRON POINT ROAD
FOLSOM, CA 95630
P: 916.355.1616
LARKSPURLANDING.COM

El Dorado gold



dry toppings – everything from nuts and granola, to crushed candy bars and cereal.

Christin reports one of the most popular combinations of "fro-yo", as it's affectionately known to yogurt junkies, is the plain tart flavor with mochi (Asian rice candy), Fruity Pebbles® and Cap'n Crunch® cereal on top. Whatever their creation, customers may choose as many toppings as they'd like. The cost is based upon weight, with a typical serving ranging from \$3-\$4.

Francine claims the shop is as popular with local kids after school as it is with the after dinner crowd. One young fan, Ariana

Sacco, visits whenever she's in Town Center. "My favorite yogurt is the mango flavor with shredded coconut, strawberries, and mangoes on top," she says, adding, "I like that it's fresh and there is a lot of variety."

Another Serrano neighbor, Carolyn Adams, considers herself addicted, but asserts it's a healthy addiction. "My favorite thing about Yogaberry is the natural flavored yogurt – it's a little tart and a little sweet and very refreshing," she says. "Best of all it's only 80 calories per four ounce serving. I always throw a little fresh fruit on top and it tastes so decadent."



The mother and daughter duo of Francine and Christin Ramos invite all of Serrano to drop in and share their excitement at Yogaberry.

Carolyn reminisces that she first met the Ramos family when they moved to their Serrano neighborhood almost 12 years ago. "I truly hope the community really supports Yogaberry and that the store is very successful."

From the taste of things, that success seems to be inevitable, which is good news for our community as a whole. Because they are big believers in the importance of corporate social responsibility, the Ramos' donate 10 percent of all Yogaberry profits to local and global charities. Yogaberry is open daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. (916-933-3300). ■

El Dorado Hills Optometric Center

- Comprehensive Vision Exams
- Experienced Professional Staff
- Extensive Selection of designer glasses and contact lenses
- Provider for most insurance plans

1011 St. Andrews Drive, Suite F
El Dorado Hills
(916) 933-5535



DR. SHEILH TITUS

DR. KIM CORRIGAN

Solamente lo mejor

Only the best

From entertaining often — and well — at home, we shaped our service philosophy. Now we proudly extend our best to you, our esteemed guest.

Pueblo Chico, our name literally means the "little town" in the heart of Town Center.



Pueblo Chico
CANTINA



New Lunch Menu (11am-2pm)

2023 Vine Street, Suite 200, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

Telephone: 916. 939. 9153 / www.PuebloChicoCantina.com