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**anyone** that has spent any amount of time in chicago or its surrounding suburbs knows about portillo **'s .** <sssss> these **folks** will not look to yelp for a **recommendation .** <sssss> the **portillo 's beef** is **legendary .** <sssss> for those not accustomed to portillo **'s** this is the **place** to **go** for a **true italian beef .** <sssss> i **'ve** had a few out here **.** <sssss> with the exception of dazzo 's dog **house** i have not been **impressed .** <sssss> **portillo 's delivers** the **goods .** <sssss> you can **also get chicago dogs ,** italian **sausage , burgers , chicken sandwiches , catering , shakes , malts** and **killer fries .** <sssss> the **restaurant** is **large** and will **accommodate** a lot of people even with the **hoards flocking** to a **new restaurant .** <sssss> for my **money** you can not beat the beef **sandwich dipped** with **mozzarella .** <sssss> it **'s** my **standard order .**

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virtual applause to you portillo 's for handling the masses so efficiently and smoothly ! <sssss> word spread like wildfire when portillo 's announced that they were coming to scottsdale . <sssss> for months , valley residents from all around waited anxiously for the doors to open . <sssss> just recently , portillo 's doors finally opened . <sssss> were they ready for the crowds ? <sssss> yes they most definitely were ! <sssss> i 've been to portillo 's in illinois so i knew what i was in for . <sssss> this portillo 's lives up to its roots . <sssss> the exterior is bright and welcoming with tables all around . <sssss> the drive-thru resembles that of an in & out -lrb- in the ordering sense -rrb- and the **interior reminds** me of a **1950 's booming diner .** <sssss> **everything** is **friendly** and **welcoming** about **portillo 's , including** the **staff .** <sssss> i **heard** that they brought in around 80 **chicago staffers** to manage the launch of the scottsdale opening which was very **smart** on their **part .** <sssss> we **visited tonight** and **although** the **line** was **wrapped around** the **restaurant ,** we **ordered** our **food** and **got** it **within 15 minutes .** <sssss> what **'s** their **secret ?** <sssss> **complete organization .** <sssss> while we were **waiting** in line **, someone came** up and **took** our **order** so that by the time we **got** to the register , all we had to do was **hand** them our **ticket** and **pay .** <sssss> after that **,** we got a **number** and **waited** for them to **call** it **.** <sssss> **within 5-7 minutes ,** they **called** our number and we were **ready** to **feast !** <sssss> the **food** here is **really** as **tasty** as **people say** it is **.** <sssss> it **'s** all about the **beef ,** the **italian beef** that is **.** <sssss> the **beef** is **juicy , tender** and **flavorful** and **sits within** a **soft roll .** <sssss> the **fries** are **delicious** and the **chicago dogs** are as **good** as any **.** <sssss> i have **yet** to try the chopped salad or the milkshakes but i **hear** both are **extraordinary** so i will be **ordering** them **next time .** <sssss> all i can **say** is **, believe** the **hype** and **pay** a **visit** to **portillo 's .** <sssss> it does **n't** matter if you 've been to one in illinois or not . <sssss> now we have one in scottsdale and shea an the **101** is a **better place** because of it **!** <sssss> **welcome** to the **valley , portillo 's .**

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**welcome** to the **desert portillo 's !** <sssss> **everyone** from **chi-town** is in **hot dog heaven !**

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there are few chains i will review normally but this **place** was **great** so i **felt** i **owed** it to the **staff** to **give** them a **good review .** <sssss> i have never heard of this place before **,** but my **bosses** have and they wanted a **catered lunch** from here **.** <sssss> they had an idea of the menu before **hand** so i **trusted** their **judgement .** <sssss> they were **great** over the **phone answering questions** and being **patient ...** i had a **lot .** <sssss> they **sent email confirmation** and were all **around awesome .** <sssss> the **day** to **pick** up **arrived** and they had **everything ready** to **go ...** no waiting around . <sssss> that 's when i **realized** i **locked** my **keys** in the **car** with my **cell phone ... awesome .** <sssss> not only were the people behind the **togo counter awesome ,** they were just **plain** out **patient** and **willing** to **help ...** and **able** to **laugh along** with me that i had an **idiot moment .** <sssss> the **manager called** a **cab** for me after **letting** me **make countless calls** on their **phone .** <sssss> **finally** we **got** me a **cab** and i **got** the **food back** to the office . <sssss> it was **great .** <sssss> we had the **beef** and some **italian sausages** with their bread , which was **great** too **.** <sssss> we **got** some **toppings** for both **like** hot peppers and such **.** <sssss> **everyone** was so **pleased** with the **food** and **apparently** they have a ton of other **great stuff** to **try** as **well .** <sssss> i will **definitely go back** here because of the **food** but how can you not after having such **awesome service** when you **'re** such an **idiot ?**

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well let me start by saying the location is more than a notion being located right of the expressway and at the corner of 90th and shea . <sssss> traffic is going to a nightmare and getting out of there is going to be an even bigger nightmare especially on weekends ... you can count on it . <sssss> however with all of that being said it is definitely worth the trouble . <sssss> this was the second opening day event i went to today -lrb- first being krispy kreme which i will review later -rrb- and i have to say the owners of this establishment `` nailed it '' ... wohoooo . <sssss> i do n't miss many things about chicago during the 10 years i stayed there ... but portillo **'s** was **definitely one** of them **.** <sssss> the **chopped salad** was in a **word delicious** and i was **hoping** it **would** be the same **way** here in **az .** <sssss> **.** <sssss> after **waiting** for a **year** for this **place** to **open** i was not **disappointed .** <sssss> the **staff** was **awesome ...** the **drive-thru** was **fully staffed** and not a single person was **waiting** out there . <sssss> the outdoor seating is a **bit close** to the entrance and right **next** to the drive **thru lane** so they might want to look into other options with that **.** <sssss> **back** to the **chopped salad ...** as i **said** before just **like** in **chicago ...** they **nailed** it **.** <sssss> **however** the **lady** that was **making** them **today seem** to have trouble with **special orders .** <sssss> i **ordered 2 chopped salads one** with no bacon ... and **one** with no **cheese ...** she **managed** to **mess** that up **really .** <sssss> i did **n't** hold that against her or the establishment because it was **opening day ...** but if it **happens** in the **future** they will **lose** a **star** on this **review .** <sssss> the **prices** were **also dead** on and the **establishment** itself **made** me **feel like** i was in **chicago** for at **least** a few **minutes anyway .** <sssss> i **think** the people that moved here from **chicago like** myself will be very **pleased** and for the **newbies ... well** i **think** their **dining options** will **change** once they **visit portillo 's .** <sssss> **warning ... warning ... warning ...** to **chili 's ... .** <sssss> **applebee 's ... mimi 's cafe ... quiznos** and **culver 's ... .** <sssss> there is a **new kid** on the block and it **'s name** is **portillo 's ... watch** out **...** wohoooo **.** <sssss> **eat , drink ,** and be **merry** my **friends !!!!!**

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like many other misplaced chicagoland natives who somehow settled in the valley , the little things are what i miss the most . <sssss> one of those little things are the amazing hot dog and italian beef restaurants all over the city and its sprawling suburbs . <sssss> portillo 's not only was one of my favorite of those places , but it was the one that my brother and i would ride our bikes over to so we **could** get a cheap and delicious lunch before hitting up a movie on a random summer afternoon . <sssss> with that kind of nostalgic expectations , portillo 's in scottsdale had a lot to live up to , and guess what ? <sssss> they hit the mark with a perfect bullseye . <sssss> a jumbo hot dog with everything on it -lrb- like a good chicago place even an arizona portillo 's knows that means no ketchup unless specifically requested -rrb- , fries , and a piece of chocolate cake ! <sssss> the 10 year old me , who ate this meal more times than i can even try to remember , could **n't** have been any happier . <sssss> the **dog** is **pretty much** what i **remember loving** as a **kid .** <sssss> the **bun** was a **lot soggier** than it should be **,** which **resulted** in the very **fresh condiments falling** out **,** but i can **forgive** that **.** <sssss> the **fries** were the **perfectly crispy `` crinkly '' fries** that the **best places always served .** <sssss> the **cake** was **perfectly moist** and **scrumptious** with the very **sweet -lsb-** and **unnecessarily** too **much -rsb- frosting** that i could n't get enough of as a **child .** <sssss> my **fiancé** had the **italian beef .** <sssss> **awesome .** <sssss> **make sure** to order it **dipped .** <sssss> **messy** but **flavorful .** <sssss> she **also ordered** cheese fries -lrb- they just **give** you a container of some cheese sauce that i could n't stop dipping my fries into **-rrb- .** <sssss> by the **way ;** the **food** is **cheap !** <sssss> all that and two soft drinks was only a **little** more than $ **20.00 .** <sssss> the **line** out the door was **expected ,** and **even** a **little daunting ,** at 6:30 on the friday night **following** the **grand opening .** <sssss> the **good news ;** it **moved fast .** <sssss> we **got** our **food** and **found** a **table** in a **little** over a **half hour .** <sssss> if that can be done in the first week , then the **pace** will **certainly speed** up when the **excitement starts** to **ware** down **.** <sssss> if you 're not already a portillo **'s fan ,** you may want to wait a few weeks for the **hype** to **die** down before you **give** the **place** a **try .** <sssss> it **'s** not like there was a **shortage** of **chicago hot dog** and **italian beef places around** the valley **.** <sssss> but **portillo 's** is **certainly** a **top notch addition .**

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what can i say **,** i **love portillo 's .** <sssss> my **favorite dinner** here is an **italian beef -lrb- prime roast beef , soaked** in **au jus** type sauce -rrb- **sandwiched** between **pillows** of the **softest bread imaginable** and then **dunked** again into **sauce .** <sssss> it **'s amazing ,** and **messy ,** but **mostly amazing .** <sssss> **also ,** the **cheese fries** are **de-lish .** <sssss> i **normally** am anti-fake-liquid-cheese **,** but this **cheese** is **like** a **creamy bowl** of **macaroni** and **cheese sent** from **heaven** to **dip** your **perfect** french-fries in **;** a **dangerous combination !** <sssss> the **chocolate cake** is **delicious .** <sssss> i **also love** the **chocolate cake shake -- chocolate shake** with chocolate **cake crumbles .** <sssss> **yum , yum , yum !** <sssss> **naomi garnice gives** it **two thumbs** up **!!**

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**wow ,** what to **say !** <sssss> i have been all around this **country** but **nothing beats** a **portillo 's hot dog !** <sssss> a **regular** with **everything ,** a **chili** cheese dog **,** and **cheese fries ...** very **healthy indeed !** <sssss> **: -rrb-** this **place** is **always packed** because it **'s amazing .** <sssss> if you **truly** like hot dogs , it **'s worth** the **chaos** and **wait .** <sssss> they are very **expedient** in their **service .** <sssss> **oh ,** did i **mention** they have **amazing shakes** too **?!** <sssss> **plan** on **gaining** some lbs by **coming** here but it **'s** so **worth** it **.**

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i **'ve never** had an italian **beef** before my **visit** to **portillo 's .** <sssss> i **lived** by one in **california** but i never tried it because i **thought** it was just **hot dogs ,** but when i saw some of the pictures of the beef **sandwiches** and **read** the reviews , i was **eager** to **give** it a **try .** <sssss> **since** this **location** is **right** by my work , i **finally** had a **convenient opportunity** to **give** it a **shot .** <sssss> we **went** through the **drive-thru** and **service** was **crazy** on **point !** <sssss> it was **n't incredibly** busy like i had **seen** passing by other times , so **maybe** the **7 staff members** standing outside to take orders usually have more to do **,** but it **seemed way overstaffed** at that **point .** <sssss> the **food came** out **reasonably fast** and you could feel the heat of the **sandwich intensely** through the **bag .** <sssss> we decided to share a big **beef sandwich , dipped -lrb-** we **love gravy -rrb-** and with **hot peppers** , with a **side** of **fries .** <sssss> the **sandwich** was so **juicy** it **leaked** through the **bag ,** so **next time ill probably ask** them to **double** bag/wrap it **!** <sssss> when we **got home** we **devoured** the **entire meal** with **great satisfaction .** <sssss> the **sandwich** was **huge , easily satisfying** our **hunger .** <sssss> **ca n't** wait to have another **,** and **maybe try** a **chicago style dog ,** i **'m interested** in what all the **hype** is about **!**

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i was **actually nervous** that this **portillo 's would** be a **disappointment .** <sssss> **nothing beats** the original **,** but this **location** is **still** fantazmic **.** <sssss> and i do n't even have to catch a **flight** to **chicago !** <sssss> my **heart started beating faster** as **soon** as i **walked** in **.** <sssss> the **anticipation** for the **portillo 's dog** had me **smiling giddily , like** a **little school girl** on **puppy day .** <sssss> is **puppy day** a **thing ?** <sssss> if not , it should be **.** <sssss> the hot **dog** was **great ,** just **like** it was in **chi-town .** <sssss> i **'m** no hot dog expert , but these are **still** the **best** i **'ve ever** had **.** <sssss> if you do n't like hot dogs , there are **plenty** of other **offerings .** <sssss> the **italian beef sandwich** is **great , tender beef ,** and **dipped** in **gravy** to your liking -lrb- dry-light gravy , **extra gravy** or **totally dipped** in **gravy -rrb- .** <sssss> i **like** the **beef sandwich** with **sweet peppers added ,** and i do n't really even like peppers **.** <sssss> they **also** have **chicken sandwiches , fish sandwiches ,** a **veggie sandwich , burgers** and **even ... salads .** <sssss> most **importantly ,** if you do like hot dogs ... you have to get here as **soon** as **possible** to do work ... **joey chestnut style .**

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the **hot dog** was **good** but **, really ?** <sssss> what **'s** all the **hub-bub ?** <sssss> i was **still hungry** when i **finished** it so that **'s** not a **good sign right** there **.** <sssss> i **ordered** a chili dog with **mustard , ketchup** and **cheese** and **onion rings .** <sssss> the **onion rings** were too **breaded** and too **crispy -lrb- yes ,** there is such a thing as too **crispy -rrb- .** <sssss> the **place** is a **bit confusing** to **figure** out when you walk in **-- need** more **signage .** <sssss> i **'m sure** i **'ll come back** here to **give** them **another shot ,** but i do **n't** see what the big **deal** is **... yet .**

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i gave into the hype and met some girlfriends at portillo 's the other night for dinner ... perhaps i had high expectations from both the yelp reviews i 'd read prior and all of my chicago friends raving about this institution that they grew up frequenting . <sssss> unfortunately **,** i did n't realize that a few weeks after the grand opening , portillo 's would still be a zoo ! <sssss> it 's huge and lines were n't long , so i ca n't complain about that , there were just tons of people -lrb- both patrons and employees -rrb- everywhere you turned . <sssss> i did n't love the layout either ... i 'm usually all about fast casual concepts and ordering at a window , but i hated that there are three different areas to pick up your food . <sssss> it varies depending on if you order salads , **hot food , and/or dessert .** <sssss> and you have to wait for your number to be called and then **go pick** it up from the **appropriate window .** <sssss> it **'s hard enough** to hear your number being called and then it **'s tough** because you have to leave your **group** to **go get** your **food ; hence ,** not a relaxing start to a **meal ... amongst** my **group** of **three ,** we had a hotdog , a **chicken sandwich -lrb-** the **breaded** one on the croissant -rrb- **,** a **bowl** of chilli **,** a **barbecue chicken salad ,** and **two large** fries -lrb- one with cheese and one **without -rrb- .** <sssss> we **also** had a lemonade and several bottles of **water .** <sssss> i will **say** that **prices** are very **reasonable ,** and the **food** was **fine --** not **amazing though .** <sssss> i **felt like** it was a **glorified fast food restaurant ; nothing** to **make** me **rush back , although** i am **sure** i **'ll eventually make** my **way back** to **try** some of the other things on the menu **.** <sssss> **-lrb-** the other **salads looked good** and i **hear great things** about their desserts -rrb- **.** <sssss> again **,** i was **n't** a **fan** of all of the **chaos -- perhaps** that will **die** down **eventually ?** <sssss> there were a ton of **staff ,** but **none** of them were **super friendly** or **helpful .** <sssss> **guests** are **supposed** to **clear** their own tables - we learned that when we asked **.** <sssss> **portillo 's** does **n't offer** a kids **' menu** -lrb- **although considering** the **prices ,** that 's fine **-rrb- ,** and no **refills** on drinks **either .** <sssss> i **think** if you **go** in with **expectations** for a **higher end mcdonald 's ,** you **'ll** be **pleasantly surprised .**

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i was a **bit sad since** i **used** to frequent the uncle sam 's that was here **,** but all my **regrets** are **definitely gone .** <sssss> **portillo 's** is a **sick joint** and i **hope** it **'s** here to **stay .** <sssss> **taking** down the **restaurant decor** for a very **open counter service restaurant .** <sssss> **akin** to **something like five guys ,** you can view the entire line of **cooks** from **grill** to **tray service along half** the **perimeter .** <sssss> they **even** have a separate counter for **serving desserts .** <sssss> the **title suggests hot dogs** is the **main attraction ,** but from what **everyone 's** been **ordering** and what the **staff tells** me **,** the **italian beef attracts** the most **customers .** <sssss> the **gravy** is **excellent ,** and the **beef** while succelent **embodied** all the **classic flavors every italian beef fan loves .** <sssss> the **bread** does the **sandwich justice ,** but it **'s good** but not **great .** <sssss> i **personally like** the combo , which **comes** with an **entire sausage** in **addition** to the **beef .** <sssss> the **sides** are not something to shirk at either . <sssss> the **onion rings** are **super crispy** and the **crinkle fries work well** with dat **cheese whiz .** <sssss> to **top everything** off **,** this **entire restaurant even** has a drive thru **,** which **totally works !** <sssss> the **menu** is **huge ,** so i **'m far** from **exhausting** my **limit** here **.** <sssss> i **hear** the **salads** are **pretty good ,** and i **'ve got** to try the namesake **dish eventually .** <sssss> **however ,** it **'s really hard** to **stay away** from the **italian beef every time** i **come back .**

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this **place** is **awesome !!** <sssss> **sorry teds hot dogs ,** this **place** is the **new** and **approved !** <sssss> we where very **impressed !** <sssss> i had the **chicago hot dog** and bacon **cheese burger .** <sssss> **nothing** but **smiles** and **happiness !**

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after **leaving** an **event** that did n't fill me up **tonight ,** the **bf** and i **went** to **portillo 's since** we had n't tried it yet and were **right** there **!** <sssss> **well ...** the **food** was **better** than the **place** we **left ,** but it was **nothing special .** <sssss> i had a hot **dog** and was **disappointed** that they did n't use vienna beef and that they did not have neon green relish **...** those **two things** are what make a **chicago style hotdog** in my **book .** <sssss> the **bf enjoyed** his **cheeseburger ,** i **thought** it was **pretty par** as **far** as **cheap cheeseburgers go .** <sssss> i **definitely would** not drive all the **way** out here to **eat** again **,** but i **would n't refuse** to eat here **either ,** so i **suppose** it is **ok .**

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**portillo 's** is now my **`` goto '' italian beef place .** <sssss> there **'s nothing like hitting** this **place** on a **saturday afternoon** with a **dipped juicy italian beef along** with some **yummy roasted sweet green peppers nestled along** with the **beef** on a **hoagie like roll .** <sssss> **wash** that down with a large strawberry shake and **consider** your **day complete .** <sssss> now that the **insane** crowds from the opening **couple** of **months** have **subsided ,** you can have a relaxing **meal** and **actually talk** to your **companions .** <sssss> my **wife** is **always begging** me to **go** here as **well .** <sssss> she **loves** the **grilled chicken** and **wait** for it **... ... ... ... .** <sssss> the **italian beef dipped** with **either hot** giardiniera or sweet green peppers **.** <sssss> that my friends is an **intelligent woman .** <sssss> so **stop checking** the menu online and **get** over to **portillo 's** for some **tasty comfort food .**