

Classing Up Take-Out

(NAPSA)—What’s cooking in American homes? Sometimes, not much. Americans buy an average of 202 meals per year at restaurants—that’s nearly four nights a week. The eating-out-of-home trend goes one step further with large national restaurants offering to-go meals straight from their popular dine-in menus. Case in point: Take-out sales for Outback Steakhouse nearly doubled while those for Applebee’s more than doubled.

So with 34 percent of American adults considering take-out “essential” to their way of life, spending 25 percent of their income on out-of-home meals, why not make the take-out experience a little more special? Try these tips for getting more out of your meal:

Set The Mood

Try dressing up the meal by swapping plasticware and cardboard containers with real spoons and plates. (Read: the kind you don’t throw away.) Or, if you think take-out should mean no dishwashing, keep the containers and plastic, play some music, break out a tablecloth and enjoy.

Wine Time

You might be surprised to learn that plenty of wines pair perfectly with take-out meals and don’t break the bank. For instance, try a white wine such as Gallo Family Vineyards Twin Valley Sauvignon Blanc (\$5.99) with Asian cuisine like Chinese, Thai and Japanese as well as



Take-Out Is In—Pairing take-out with the right beverages can add to the eat-at-home experience.

barbecue and salads. Or you can try a Twin Valley Cabernet Sauvignon with chicken wings, Mexican, and Italian sub sandwiches. For desserts, go with a Twin Valley Moscato. It can be perfectly paired with creamy desserts or simply poured over fresh fruit. You can also use the Moscato to add flavor to some classic take-out sauces. Try these ideas:

- Asian Soy Sauce: Five ounces of the Moscato will add some gusto to your favorite Asian dipping sauce recipes.
- Italian Puttanesca: Three ounces of the Moscato will enhance the flavor in this classic favorite.
- Salsa Verde: Adding two ounces of Twin Valley Moscato softens the spiciness, making it more palate friendly. The Gallo Family Vineyards Twin Valley line offers each type priced at \$5.99, less than the average take-out meal.

For more information, visit www.ejgtwinvalley.com.