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BITES

GREAT PLACES

Now this is a burger

If you're really, really hungry and you want a great big, juicy, ketchup-drippin', thick-pattied hamburger, I know a guy named Mike who has just the burger you are looking for.

The decor is standard lunchroom with lots of sports pennants. You're likely to see a group of the local constabulary enjoying "coffee-and," as they say. But most people go for the burgers. Burger King should be ashamed calling its big burger "The Whopper."

Mike's got the real whoppers. You can find this amazing piece of beef at Mike's at the Crossroads (where Highway 116 meets Old Redwood Highway), 7665 Old Redwood Highway, Cotati; 665-9999.

A crowd pleaser

A wildly popular place in Yountville is the Napa Valley Grille. It's one of a number of Napa Valley Grilles scattered around the country, so you're never very far from the kind of crowd-pleasing food the place specializes in.

Because of the crowds, you absolutely must have a reservation. The reason for this popularity is the menu, with items like Kobe beef tri-tip, chicken penne, lamb shank, sea bass and dishes from the wood-fired grill that appeal to a broad spectrum of tastes.

A harvest platter now being offered includes dried beef, coppa, prosciutto di Parma, duroc pork roulette, citrus and mustard-cured salmon, and a couple of excellent cheeses, for a modest \$15.75. Napa Valley Grille, 6795 Washington St., Yountville; 944-8686.

CHEAP EATS

Tasty Nepalese bites

Tibetan momos, Nepali daal bhat, and tarkari are some of the delicious and inexpensive Nepalese dishes you'll find at Shangrila Café and Grill, 1706 E. Cotati Ave. Penngrove; 793-0300.