

SO MUST GO! fashionable hotspot

# SAPPORO:

Cool Blue  
Elegance

BY SUSAN LANIER-GRAHAM  
PHOTO BY JEFF NEWTON

## IF YOU GO:

14344 N. Scottsdale Road,  
Scottsdale; 480.607.1114

SUN.-THUR. 4-10 P.M.  
FRI.-SAT. 4-11 P.M.

**HAPPY HOUR DAILY:**  
4-7 P.M.

**REVERSE HAPPY HOUR:**  
THUR.-SAT. 10 P.M.  
to close

**E**arth. Air. Fire. Water. Four distinct elements define Sapporo, an Asian restaurant in North Scottsdale. Earth is the wood beam ceiling, granite tables, massive sandstone walls and entire structures of black river rock. Air is the cool blue lights that beckon you inside, the open patios, and expanses of glass. Fire is the torches lining the front, steam rising from the Teppan tables, and blown glass in fiery oranges and reds. Water flows softly out of sandstone walls, down granite slabs, and bubbles inside the strategically placed enormous aquariums.

Sapporo has an active nightlife around the island bar and on the open patio, but this place is more than just a bar. It is casual dining in an elegant atmosphere, a place to see and be seen, and an experience. The crowd is diverse, mainly ranging in age from 25 to 50, and guests frequently include local sports heroes and entertainment celebrities.

Sapporo offers three distinct kitchens, each focusing on a specialty—Teppan Yaki, Pacific Rim cuisine, and sushi. Whether you choose to be entertained at one of the 10 Teppan Yaki tables, be catered to by a sushi chef at the sushi bar, served by friendly waiters at the tables and booths tucked around the restaurant or on the outdoor patio, or sit at the bar, you can choose from the full Sapporo menu. The Asian fare includes entrees ranging from \$10 to \$70 for a Kobe beef filet. Sushi and sashimi is available for a low \$3 up to \$20 and Teppan Yaki dinners run from \$15 to \$45. House specialties include Kobe beef, lamb chops, and macadamia nut crusted sea bass. A private Teppan room, with two chefs, is available for private parties of up to 22.

The bar area starts to pick up steam on Wednesday nights and by Friday is a buzz of music, laughter and drinks. The extensive martini selection includes some unique offerings with an Asian flare. Sapporo is open daily and happy hour is from 4 to 7 p.m. A Reverse Happy Hour runs from Thursday through Saturday from 10 p.m. to close.

The atmosphere at Sapporo is casual. Diners wear everything from jeans and T-shirts to anything shimmery and slinky.

Reservations are recommended for the restaurant, Teppan Yaki tables, sushi bar and outside dining patio. 🍷