



LUNCH RIDE TO LA BELLA TAVOLA

GONZALEZ, TEXAS

18 NOVEMBER 2017

It's getting harder and harder in the San Antonio vicinity to find nice, scenic roads with pretty countryside without having to fight traffic to get there. To add to that equation try finding a 1-2 hour ride that has mouth watering food to complement your ride, after which you can leisurely meander home while you digest your meal. That, unfortunately is the price we pay to live near San Antonio, Texas. On the whole we are still fortunate to be able to ride short distances, eat well and still be able to be away from the sights, smells and negatives of big city life.

As the designated Road Captain for the day's activities, I pre-rode the route earlier in the week and sampled the food at La Bella Tavola restaurant in Gonzalez, Texas. It is a nice 1.25-1.5 hours ride and I found the food to be most

enjoyable. Weather permitting I knew the Chapter U Riders would enjoy the ride, the scenery and the food and hospitality of our designated dining establishment.



Ready to ride!

I arrived at Kent Power Sports at approximately 8:40 for a scheduled departure of 9:15. Others who were looking forward to the ride and lunch were **Rick and Pat Kendrick, Bob and Helen Priest, Pete Ryson, Ed and Helen Smith, Steve Van Gilder, Pat Wall, and Gary Ellis**. After a few minutes of updating each other on our Thanksgiving plans, I gave the safety briefing and went over the details of the day's ride. The ride to Gonzalez was uneventful although we glorified in the perfect Texas Fall weather and were thankful to have such a nice day to be with friends, riding the back roads of Texas on our Gold Wings. Due to our later start many of us had foregone breakfast so we were all pretty hungry by the time we arrived at the restaurant.



Excellent eats

La Bella Tavola has an extensive menu and if you liked Italian food you had a lot of choices. We ordered quickly and the food brought to the table was piping hot. I will attest that the food is well worth the ride and that the serving quantities are huge. We left our table full, satisfied and feeling we had received good value for our dollar. We will return!

Leaving the restaurant, we mounted up and returned home via FM 2091, riding a pretty stretch of road through Palmetto State Park and then on to I-10 where some of us headed west and home while others continued their ride toward Luling, Texas and then onward to home.

I believe everyone enjoyed our first lunch ride of the 2017 Fall/Winter season. It is always a pleasure to ride and when you ride with good people, who appreciate the journey, good food and time in the great outdoors you have some outstanding memories. I salute Mother Nature for the good weather, La Bella Tavola for the excellent lunch and the Riders of Chapter U for a wonderful riding day among friends.

I hope to see you all back on the road in the near future. Ride safe, ride well, but above all, ride!

Write up provided by **Tom Hendricks** and pictures by **Ed Smith**