

ZAGAT

10 New Restaurants to Try in San Diego

By Darlene Horn March 12, 2015



Photo by: Backyard Kitchen & Tap

Backyard Kitchen & Tap

As the entire ocean as the setting for this Pacific Beach restaurant, the former spot for Moondoggie's makes the best of use of the climate with half of the eatery open to the elements. The decor reflects the casual spot featuring a mishmash of counter height communal tables, tables for small parties as well as outdoor cabanas. Look for seafood boils, pig roasts and host of other eats served alongside spiked punch cocktails.

832 Garnet Ave.; 858-859-2593

Oceana Coastal Kitchen

Found within the Catamaran Resort Hotel in Pacific Beach, this restaurant promises to attract visitors and locals alike with its chef-driven dishes served daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. With bayside views of the water, seafaring dishes like yellowtail crudo, sesame sea bass ceviche, king crab legs and tuna carpaccio headline the menu. Food for landlubbers include deck leg confit and Niman Ranch pork chops.

3999 Mission Blvd.; 858-488-1081

James' Place Prime Seafood Sushi

Grabbing a dinner before a show at the La Jolla Playhouse is doable with this Asian-inspired eatery located next door. A sleek, minimalist design aesthetic, hanging lanterns and cush seating throughout complements thoughtful plates like truffle tuna tartare, tonkotsu ramen and hibachi hokkaido scallop. Signature drinks get equal treatment as evidenced by lychee elderflower martini with a dozen sake options on the menu. Located near UCSD, student bucks are also accepted.

2910 La Jolla Village Dr., 858-638-7778

South Park Brewing & Fish Co.

With the tagline "Honest Fish. Thoughtfully Crafted Beer." this new restaurant-slash-brewery offers more than meets the eye. Beer lovers can drink their way through 13 beers on tap and for those looking for seafaring food will find a "fish your way" style of food preparation that includes a variety of local catches (yellowtail, ahi, albacore and more) with a choice of marinade and served as either a taco, sandwich, salad or bowl.

1517 30th St.; 619-610-9038

Sugar & Scribe

If the abandoned Pacific Beach location has you searching for alternative places for your baked goods, head to La Jolla. The newly minted location features the same familiar cakes, cupcakes, brownies and Irish goodies they were known for.

7660 Fay Ave., La Jolla; 858-274-1733

PizzaRev

The "craft-your-own-pizza" movement continues with this Venture County franchise with two San Diego locations in North County. Starting with 11-inch dough, it's pressed thin and fully customizable with a choice of 30+ toppings ranging from sweet fennel sausage to premium ingredients like arugula. Pizza is finished in three minutes or less.

7835 Highlands Village Pl.; (858) 324-1200

10393 Spring Canyon Rd.; (858) 433-0080

Messuggah Shack

Java junkies looking to grab something to drink at East Village's outdoor food hub The Quartyard can look to Meshuggah Shack's second location. Housed in a retrofitted shipping container, the shop serves the same brews like espresso and other ice blended drinks made popular in the original Mission Hills' location.

1188 Market St.

Pan Bon

On the ground floor of the Ariel Suites building on Kettner Boulevard, the space acts as a one-stop shop for **Italian fare**. Freshly made pastries, sandwiches and other Italian delicacies housed under glass make up just a few of the food stations in this warmly decorated two-story venue, which transforms into a fine-dining destination in the evening. *1450 Kettner Blvd.*

The Cheese Store of San Diego

Dedicated to all-things fromage, this Little Italy shop also serves up sandwiches, mac 'n' cheese and salads. Order a custom-made cheese plate to go, or linger in the cute venue and sample your way to a new favorite. *1980 Kettner Blvd., Suite 30*

Karina's Mexican Seafood Downtown

The sixth entry for the Karina's restaurant group is a lively space with custom murals and brightly painted walls in the heart of Downtown. **Seafood** headlines most of the Mexican menu, which features ceviche, tacos and more substantial plates, but those looking for a bit of turf instead won't be disappointed. *925 B St.*