

of SAN DIEGO

Tacos, pasta, cocktails, spa treatments, and cool craft workshops—we've got 99 of the top picks in food, drink, fitness, beauty, and more.

By Paige Breon, Jackie Bryant, Kimberly Cunningham, Erin Meanley Glenny, Maya Kroth, Kai Oliver-Kurtin, Christine Orlovsky Page, Christine Pasalo, Hoa Quach, Archana Ram, Marnie Sloan, Claire Trageser, and Ann Wycoff

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Food with Games

URGE GASTROPUB & COMMON HOUSE

Goodbye to the uncomfortable plastic chairs, stale nachos, and bad hot dogs of vestervear's bowling alleys! Urge Gastropub & Common House in San Marcos offers a menu that features American eats and beers brewed in-house. with lawn games to burn the calories. In the swanky bowling alley, you'll find cozy couches, dimmed lights, and a big-screen TV playing old-school music videos. 255 Redel Road, San Marcos; sm.urqegastropub.com

Tableside Service

CARNE PRIMA

At this Italian steakhouse, chef Aliano Decka carves up 40-ounce porterhouse steaks tableside— ensuring the meat is cooked as desired while removing any excess fat. As an added touch, Decka uses his knife to engrave the steak bone with a guest's name. Now that's sharp service! 314 Fifth Avenue, Downtown; cameprima.com

Casual Offshoot

HERB & EATERY

As a dual-concept café and marketplace, Herb & Eatery is a more casual dining option under the same roof as chef Brian Malarkev's Little Italy restaurant, Herb & Wood. The laid-back alternative is ideal for the laptop crowd working remotely or those grabbing prepared meals for carryout. Order from the full menu, or indulge in one of their fresh-baked croissants made with French butter. 2210 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy; herbandeatery.com

Sundae

PUFFLE AT BOBA

BAR Waffle cone sundaes are so vesterday. Now it's all about the waffle sundae. Pulling inspiration from a popular Taiwanese street food, Boba Bar in Kearny Mesa pairs a soft bulbous waffle, or "puffle," with custard. Options range from a s'mores puffle with marshmallows, graham cracker crumbs, and chocolate chips baked in, to green tea Oreo cheesecake with matcha Pocky sticks, to the peanut butter chocolate overload, 4619 Convoy Street. Kearny Mesa: 7655 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Kearny Mesa: ■ BobaBarAndDesserts

Off-the-Beaten Path Fine Dining

GARDEN KITCHEN

Fine dining isn't necessarily Rolando's calling card, but Garden Kitchen is changing that. The tiny restaurant has an everchanging menu of dishes made with farm-fresh ingredients, like a short rib osso buco and scallop ceviche. They also host special events like a Baja wine dinner and Rainbow Happy Hour pegged to Pride month. All of the seating is outside on the cozy patio, making you feel like you've walked off the street and into someone's home. 4204 Rolando Boulevard, Rolando: gardenkitchensd.com

Avocado Toast

REFILL The coffee shop has an extensive toast menu that spans sweet and savory, but their standout dish is the avocado toast with truffle oil and micro greens. The crusty toast should be eaten using your hands for the best aromatic bite since sliced bread. Add a poached egg on top for a more filling (and oozy) meal. 3752 Park Boulevard, Hillcrest; refilicate.com

Power Lunch

BOBA BAR

OFFICINE BUONA FORCHETTA

At the new Liberty
Station spin-off of South
Park's Buona Forchetta,
the prix-fixe twocourse lunch means
fresh greens or soup
paired with entrées like
grilled chicken breast,
salmon, homemade
pastas, or a choice of
their famed Neapolitan
pizzas with a non-boozy
beverage—all for \$14.
2865 Sims Road, Liberty Station;
officinebuonaforchetta.com

North County Tacos

TJ TACOS TJ Tacos

in Escondido dishes up nine different types of street-style tacos, including nopal (cactus), chorizo, and the everso-tasty adobada. But it's not just about tacos; they also dish out fries, burritos, and quesadillas. Come during the day to avoid the lines. 802 East Valley Parkway, Escondido; tj-tacos.com

Bakery

BLACKMARKET

Blackmarket Bakery makes bread and pastries from scratch using only "pronounceable" ingredients. Their scones, croissants. cookies, cakes, and tarts are whipped up daily, or guests can opt for a sandwich with one of their house-made breads, like Dutch crunch or artichoke Asiago. 4686 30th Street, North Park; blackmarketbakery.com

Rolled Ice Cream

BING HAUS

Pouring, chopping, spackling, and scraping are involved in the creation of these made-to-order frozen desserts, a traditional sweet in Thailand. The result: a bowl of camera-ready ice cream roll-ups, garnished with goodies from whipped cream to mochi. Try their

variation on cookies and cream, venture with a Fruity Pebbles cereal ice cream base, or go full foodie with the black sesame ice cream; they're all winners. 4425 Convoy Street, Kearny Mesa; binghaus.com

Small-Batch Baker

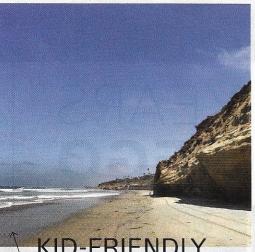
FOODIE FOLK

Almost every day of the week. Allison Markow is up when most of us are asleep, baking bars, scones, breads, cakes. and cookies to supply cafés from Oceanside to downtown. One bite of her signature Nutella blondie, a chewy butterscotch cousin to the brownie topped with thick swirls of baked-in Nutella, and you'll be grateful she does. Grab a fresh-made treat at 14 spots around the county, including Revolution Roasters (Oceanside), Copa Vida (Carlsbad and East Village), Bean Bar (East Village), and Moniker General (Liberty Station). foodiefolk.com



BEST OF SAN DIEGO BLOGGER **PICKS**

We asked our favorite local bloggers for their San Diego standouts



KID-FRIENDLY BEACH/ PARK **COMBO**

FLETCHER COVE **BEACH PARK**

This grassy Solana Beach oasis is my favorite spot to take the kids, because we can go to the beach and the park and enjoy awesome views. It's also walking distance to shops and restaurants.



Q Bri Grajkowski brigeeski.com **≫** brigeeski



TO ITAL

(No Plane Ticket Required)

BUONA FORCHETTA

We crave authentic experiences, and they're really hard to come by these days, especially in our backyard. Buona Forchetta is a neighborhood gem that makes you feel like you're in Italy and promises wonderful food and experiences every time.



Q Justin McChesney-Wachs saltpepperskillet.com @ justin mw

LOCAL FOOD **MECCA**

LIBERTY STATION

From the amazing handmade pastas and pizzas at Officine Buona Forchetta to the wine selection at Mess Hall, ice cream at MooTime Creamery, and empanadas at Parana, all inside Liberty Public Market, there's no way you'll leave Liberty Station hungry!



Q Whitney Bond whitneybond.com **y**⊚ whitneybond

UNDERWATER ADVENTURE

SAN DIEGO-LA JOLLA UNDERWATER PARK

The San Diego-La Jolla Underwater Park is 6,000 acres of artificial reefs, underwater canvons, sand flats, and kelp beds surrounded by stunning shoreline that includes the La Jolla sea caves. You can explore its abundant marine life in a number of ways, including via stand-up paddleboard, kayaking tour, or snorkeling tour.



Q Katie Dillon lajollamom.com **୬** 🛭 lajollamom

SUMMER **DESSERT**

MATCHA AFFOGATO FROM ICESKIMO

It's Italian-inspired affogato with an Asian twist, featuring hand-whisked Japanese matcha syrup poured over ribbons of Taiwanese snow shaved ice topped with mochi and almond jelly. It's a refreshing summer dessert and drink.



Q Jennifer Lee kirbiecravings.com **y**⊚ kirbiecravings

