As a coastal-community that welcomes throngs of tourists throughout the year, somehow La Jolla has maintained its original charm and neighborhood sensibility instilled early on during its days as an artists’ colony. In an area that champions both “mom-and-pop” businesses, as well as national and international businesses, firms, etc., for a merchant to have the opportunity find their niche is truly remarkable.

La Jollans are blessed when it comes to their ability in celebrating the arts at several world-renowned venues. Also, some of the finest dining experiences found in San Diego, and Southern California at large, are located within the confines of the bejeweled town. Seemingly a microcosm for the City of San Diego itself, historic, laid-back, dignified, forward-thinking and full of class, being “from La Jolla” (however that is distinguished) is a source of great pride to all.

One thing taken very seriously in this area, however, is dining. From pristine establishments utilizing farm-to-table principles, to local landmarks that aren’t going anywhere anytime soon, the La Jolla Village News has solicited public opinion as to recognize these culinary institutions in our 2019 Reader’s Choice Awards.

La Jolla’s Top Picks of 2019

La Jolla Village News
Congratulations to the following businesses who were chosen by the readers of the La Jolla Village News. Readers were asked to cast ballots for their favorite choices. This was no simple task! With more than 70 categories, our readers came through with overwhelming response. We wish to thank all the readers who took the time to recognize these businesses that do so much to make La Jolla, Bird Rock and University City such wonderful communities.

**WINNER**

- OVERALL RESTAURANT
  - Duke's La Jolla
- OVERALL SERVICE
  - CRAB CATCHER/HERRINGBONE
- BEST NEWS RESTAURANT
  - TRULUCK'S
- BEST FISH TACO
  - POKE GO
- BEST FISH & CHIPS
  - CUSP
- BEST FRESH FOOD MEXICAN
  - TRUTH COFFEE & TEA
- BEST FRENCH
  - MANHATTAN
- BEST GELATO
  - TEUSCHER CHOCOLATES OF SWITZERLAND
- BEST GREEK
  - CAFE MILANO
- BEST HEALTHY DINING
  - GOLDFINGER
- BEST HAPPY HOUR
  -負けぬ
- BEST ITALIAN
  - OSTERIA ROMANTICA
- BEST JUICE BAR
  - JUICE KABOOSE
- BEST KOREAN
  - POKE GO
- BEST LATIN AMERICAN
  - SUGAR AND SCRIBE
- BEST MEXICAN
  - DON CARLOS
- BEST MEDITERRANEAN
  - CATANIA
- BEST MEXICAN
  - THE CHEESE SHOP
- BEST MEXICAN
  - THE FRENCH GOURMET
- BEST MEXICAN
  - JUICE KABOOSE
- BEST MEXICAN
  - KARL STRAUSS BREWING CO.
- BEST MEXICAN
  - ROCK BOTTOM
- BEST MEXICAN
  - SMOKEYARD BBQ AND CHOP HOUSE
- BEST MILKSHAKE
  - BIRD ROCK FINE WINE
- BEST MODERN INDIAN
  - MASALA STREET
- BEST AMERICAN APPETIZER
  - JUICE KABOOSE
- BEST AMERICAN APPETIZER
  - SUGAR AND SCRIBE
- BEST ANCHOVY
  - DONOVAN'S
- BEST APPETIZER
  - DARTS
- BEST APPETIZER
  - FRED'S
- BEST APPETIZER
  - GEGEL
- BEST APPETIZER
  - TRUTH COFFEE & TEA
- BEST APPETIZER
  - URBAN PLATES
- BEST AHI POKE
  - POKE GO

**SILVER**

- BEST YOGURT 
  - FROZEN YOGURT
- BEST TAKE-OUT
  - SURF AND TURF
- BEST STEAK
  - TRULUCK'S
- BEST SEAFOOD
  - SAMMY'S WOODFIRE PIZZA
- BEST SALAD
  - SAMMY'S WOODFIRE PIZZA
- BEST PIZZA
  - SAMMY'S WOODFIRE PIZZA
- BEST LOCATIONS
  - BEAUMONT'S / THE LOT
- BEST LOCATIONS
  - DONOVAN'S / BEAUMONT'S
- BEST LOCATIONS
  - THE COTTAGE
- BEST LOCATIONS
  - PIAZZA 1909
- BEST LOCATIONS
  - TRULUCK'S
- BEST LOCATIONS
  - THE MARINE ROOM
- BEST LOCATIONS
  - RICHARD WALKER'S
- BEST LOCATIONS
  - HENNESSEY'S
- BEST LOCATIONS
  - HARRIED BONE
- BEST LOCATIONS
  - LEAH'S & GREEN CAFE
- BEST LOCATIONS
  - PIZZA
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  - WHEAT & WATER
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  - PREP KITCHEN
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Best American (tie)
Draft Republic
Located in La Jolla, across from UTC, Draft Republic is an American gastro pub offering a casual, friendly atmosphere and innovative cuisine. Draft Republic features a beer centric menu including favorites such as their Housemade Sausage Sampler, House Smoked Pulled Pork and the Draft Republic Burger. Guests can enjoy over 36 craft beers on tap plus housemade keg cocktails. Challenge friends to a round of ping pong, biliards, shuffle board or foosball. Don’t miss out on the food, fun and brews at Draft Republic.
Draft Republic
4282 Espanade Ct.  
(858) 450-1400  
draftrepublic.com

Nine-Ten
(See listing under Best Chef)

Best Appetizer
Prep Kitchen
Prep Kitchen has become part of the fabric of the San Diego food community. Prep Kitchen showcases a menu firmly rooted in mastery of cooking combinations, influenced by the surrounding neighborhoods and seasonal bounty of California. The menu consists of thoughtfully sourced products from artisans and farmers. Open seven days a week during lunch, social hour, dinner and Sunday and Saturday brunch. No matter the occasion the service is one of energy, well-honed enthusiasm and warm hospitality. Prep Kitchen
7556 Fay Ave.  
(858) 875-7737  
prep.kitchen.com

Best Atmosphere
George’s at the Cove
Make every day a special occasion – one that begins with a bounty of locally grown and harvested products and ends with inventive preparations that surprise and delight you. George’s is known for their ocean view dining room—contemporary yet comfortable, with an intimate setting where conversation comes easy. Let their knowledgeable staff serve as guides to the many exciting choices available.
George’s at the Cove
1250 Prospect St.  
(858) 454-4244  
georgesatthecove.com

Sugar & Scribe
Prep Kitchen
Prep Kitchen has become part of the fabric of the San Diego food community. Prep Kitchen showcases a menu firmly rooted in mastery of cooking combinations, influenced by the surrounding neighborhoods and seasonal bounty of California. The menu consists of thoughtfully sourced products from artisans and farmers. Open seven days a week during lunch, social hour, dinner and Sunday and Saturday brunch. No matter the occasion the service is one of energy, well-honed enthusiasm and warm hospitality. Prep Kitchen
7556 Fay Ave.  
(858) 875-7737  
prep.kitchen.com

Best Bakery
Busy Bee’s
Busy Bee’s is the perfect place for a busy bee to stop by for a quick bite to eat. The service is fast and the prices are decent. While the bagel place is known for its bagel sandwiches and specialty bagels like the pesto bagel and sun-dried tomato bagel, it also offers a variety of other baked goods.
Busy Bee’s
6651 La Jolla Blvd.  
(619) 456-2738

Best BBQ
Bubba’s Smoke House BBQ
In 2009, Jeffrey Nicoletta, a Navy veteran turned restaurateur, and Ali Nicoletta, opened Bubba’s Smokehouse BBQ. Six years later, Bubba’s mouth-watering, fall-off-the-bone ribs are a smoking success! This family-friendly BBQ restaurant serves up Southern-style ribs, pork, tri-tip, brisket and chicken with lots of delicious home-style side orders. For those wanting lighter fare, Bubba’s offers hearty salads for a more healthful alternative. Southern BBQ? There’s Bubba’s, and then there’s all the others.
Bubba’s Smokehouse BBQ
888 Prospect St.  
(858) 551-4227  
bubbas.smokehousebbq.com

Best Pâtisserie
Sugar & Scribe
Home of Food Network Champion Chef Maeve, Sugar & Scribe is a quintessential La Jolla hangout. Featuring scratch-made breakfast and lunch, gourmet coffee bar, wedding and specialty cakes, catering, takeout and an award-winning bakery, Sugar and Scribe is a local favorite. Open daily 7 am.
Sugar & Scribe
7640 Fay Ave.  
(858) 274-1733  
sugarandscribe.com

Best Bar (tie)
Raised by Wolves
Raised by Wolves is a cocktail-focused boutique with an exquisitely designed hidden bar. The retail space offers a carefully curated selection of fine spirits alongside vintage and procured spirits from the ranging from the 40’s, 50’s, and 60’s, as well as highly coveted, strictly allocated bottles from around the world. The bar serves specialty cocktails and will also host cocktail classes, pop-ups and guest bartender events.
Raised by Wolves
4301 La Jolla Village Dr.  
(619) 629-0243  
raisedbywolves.com

Voted Best Dessert
Michelle Coulon Dessertier
Desserts and savory offerings are made from the finest ingredients: fresh local organic produce, only real butter, and Belgian chocolate. They take pride in creating spectacular wedding cakes and desserts appealing to the eye and tantalizing to the taste. They believe that everything they serve must be delicious as well as beautiful. Celebrating their 17th year in La Jolla!
Michelle Coulon Dessertier
Sycamore Court,  
7556 Fay Ave.  
(858) 456-5098  
dessertier.com

Michelle Coulon Dessertier

Best Beer Selection
Draft Republic
(See listing under Best American)

Best Bloody Mary
Beaumont’s
(See listing under Best Live Music)
Beaumont’s Eatery
(See listing under Best Live Music)
★
Best Breakfast (tie)
The Cottage
"The Cottage is a quintessential La Jolla destination beloved by locals, tourists, the young, the old, regulars and newcomers alike for the past 27 years. Set in the historic Columbine cottage built in the early 1900s, The Cottage serves up an exceptional breakfast, lunch and dinner on a sun-drenched patio. The gourmet omelets, stuffed French toast, healthful muffins and trade-mark granola are memorable and worth the weekend wait, which is sweetened by the coffee and cake samples offered to those milling on the sidewalk waiting for a table."

The Cottage
7702 Fay Ave. | (858) 454-8409
cottage@laじolla.com

Richard Walker’s Pancake House
Richard Walker points to his pancakes with no shortage of pride – he even mentions them in the name of his venue, and they’re some of the best in the history of the universe. But maybe there’s a change in the wind here – Richard’s just won our paper’s award for best omelet, and it’s small wonder. These things are served seconds after they’re plated, served seconds after they’re plated, and they’re made with a whopping four eggs. Cheese is a big item in these dishes too, because it goes so well with foundations like spinach and onions. Richard Walker’s Omelet House – kind of a nice ring. Richard Walker’s Pancake House
9090 Prospect St. | (858) 459-8800
richardwalkers.com

Beaumont’s Eatery
(See listing under Best Live Music)
★
Best Burger (tie)
Burger Lounge
The folks at Burger Lounge don’t just think burgers should taste great. They believe the common American meal should utilize healthy, sustainable ingredients as well. Burger Lounge’s vision is evident at every turn – from the organic ketchup to the wild salmon burger topped with fried green tomatoes and BBQ glaze. While this premium burger joint has other divine splurges to indulge in like the fresh vegetable salad and onion rings. Burger Lounge
1101 Wall St. | (858) 456-0196
burgerlounge.com

Bistro du Marche
Bistro du Marche by Tapenade takes guests on a memorable culinary odyssey throughout France’s opulent and diverse regions. The comfortable and relaxed atmosphere of the dining room, patio, combined with a lively ambiance, resembles the turn of the century Parisian bistros. Under Chef Jean-Michel Diet and Chef Alain Delahaye leadership, Bistro du Marche’s cuisine selects fresh, local Californian ingredients and blends them with traditional French techniques and flavors. Bistro du Marche also includes an inspired cocktail list and an extensive selection of French and California wines.

Bistro du Marche
7437 Girard Ave. | (858) 551-7500
bistrodumarche.net

Karl Strauss Brewery
Karl Strauss brews and bottles its beer in a converted greenhouse just east of Pacific Beach. Don’t fret – La Jollans can go here too, and in fact they shouldn’t miss out on the freshness and flavor Karl Strauss has to offer. Strauss brews 30 beers each year with seasonal offerings and sends it to 2,500 bars, restaurants, liquor stores and grocery stores throughout So. California. Meanwhile, sipping a cold brew at the La Jolla restaurant is of cultural importance!

Karl Strauss Brewery
1044 Wall St. | (858) 551-2739
karlstrauss.com

The Best French
★
Best Catering
Living Room Coffeehouse
Located in the heart of La Jolla Shores, The Living Room serves up an extensive selection of French and California wines.

The Living Room
1255 Prospect St. | (858) 459-1187
livingroomusa.com

Best Coffee
★
Bakery
The Gourmet’s traditional bakery features a homey ambiance furnished with antiques, coaches and wooden tables. Patrons find the communal atmosphere inspiring and relaxing; you’ll find groups of friends smoking the hookah on the upstairs patio and others poring over books in the back. Enjoy scrumptious desserts along with wine, beer, cocktails and hookah tobacco.

The Gourmet
Located in the heart of La Jolla Shores, The Gourmet’s traditional bakery features a homey ambiance furnished with antiques, coaches and wooden tables. Patrons find the communal atmosphere inspiring and relaxing; you’ll find groups of friends smoking the hookah on the upstairs patio and others poring over books in the back. Enjoy scrumptious desserts along with wine, beer, cocktails and hookah tobacco.
is renowned for its outstanding French pastries. It’s also a showcase for full-service catering and wedding cakes, which many consider to be the best in the history of the universe. The selection of breads, breakfast pastries, cookies and cakes include the French Gourmet chocolate mousse and the strawberry bagatelle — layers of white sponge cake dabbed with syrup, filled with Bavarian cream and fresh strawberries and topped with a thin layer of marzipan. Wash it all down with an espresso drink or a glass of wine, or keep the experience moving with pâté, quiche or imported cheese.

French Gourmet
960 Turquoise St., Pacific Beach
858-929-1984
thefrenchgourmet.com

★★
Best Chef (tie)
Jason Knibb® Nine-Ten
NINE-TEN Restaurant’s evolving California cuisine features the best of the harvest from local artisan farmers where produce is selected daily. Lunch and dinner are served daily and Brunch every Sunday in the main dining room, sidewalk patio or back terrace with glimpses of the ocean.

Nine-Ten Restaurant & Bar
910 Prospect St. | (858) 964-5400

★★
Best Chocolate
Teuscher Chocolates of Switzerland
Teuscher Chocolates is located upstairs in La Plaza La Jolla! Their first location in San Diego, the artisan chocolatier has been around for more than 80 years, and hails all the way from Switzerland; today, there are stores worldwide in five different countries. They boast a wide variety of delectable treats – from truffles to holiday gift boxes.

Teuscher Chocolates of Switzerland
7863 Girard Av, Suite 204
(858) 230-6337

★★
Best Chinese (tie)
China Chef
For a taste of China in the middle of La Jolla, look no further than China Chef. This authentic little gem has a wide range of traditional fare like chop suey, noodle dishes, chef specialties to choose from and great deals on lunch specials from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Gluten-free menu items like cashew nut chicken, shrimp with assorted vegetables and Kung-Po beef to cater to everyone’s tastes.

China Chef
623 Pearl St. | (858) 454-1368
lajollahinachef.com

★★
Best Coffee Shop (tie)
Bird Rock
Coffee Roasters
Bird Rock Coffee Roasters is proud to have put premiere, direct-trade coffee on the map in San Diego. BRCR has won multiple national and international awards for quality, taste, roasting and socially responsible practices, including. Bird Rock Coffee Roaster’s staff sources the best coffees in the world and directly from origin. Going beyond the perfect latte, Bird Rock Coffee Roasters has professional roasters on site and pour-over bars featuring seasonal offerings. Bird Rock Coffee Roasters engages in

★★
Best Coffee Shop (tie)
Bird Rock
Coffee Roasters
Bird Rock Coffee Roasters is proud to have put premiere, direct-trade coffee on the map in San Diego. BRCR has won multiple national and international awards for quality, taste, roasting and socially responsible practices, including. Bird Rock Coffee Roaster’s staff sources the best coffees in the world and directly from origin. Going beyond the perfect latte, Bird Rock Coffee Roasters has professional roasters on site and pour-over bars featuring seasonal offerings. Bird Rock Coffee Roasters engages in
Voted Best Ocean View

The Marine Room
Since 1941, one symbol has stood for the most exquisite dining experience in San Diego. The Seahorse symbol of The Marine Room has earned countless accolades. Critics have described its privileged setting on La Jolla’s finest beach and the thrill of being “eye-level” with the crashing surf at high tide. The culinary artistry of Executive Chef Bernard Guillas and Chef de Cuisine Ron Oliver has been called “world-class” for its devotion to fresh ingredients including local and organic. They believe that everything they serve must be delicious as well as beautiful. Celebrating their 77th year in La Jolla!

Michelle Coulon Dessertier
Sycamore Court, 7556 Fay Ave.
(858) 456-5098
dessertier.com

Best Dinner (tie)
Whisknladle
(See listing under Best Comfort Food)

Nine-Ten
(See listing under Best Chef)

Best Espresso (tie)
Pannikin Coffee & Tea
Did you know the Pannikin has been serving San Diego county since 1968? This family owned and operated business roasts coffee and bakes daily for all four of its locations from their Lucadia location. Purveyors of freshly roasted coffee, fine imported teas and freshly baked goods, they take great pride in bringing you the freshest selection of single origin coffees and proprietary blends from around the globe.

Michelle Coulon Dessertier
Michele Coulon Dessertier desserts and savory offerings are made from the finest ingredients: fresh local organic produce, only real butter, and Belgian chocolate. They take pride in creating spectacular wedding cakes and desserts appealing to the eye and tantalizing to the taste. Everything is made from the finest ingredients including local and organic. They believe that everything they serve must be delicious as well as beautiful. Celebrating their 17th year in La Jolla!

Nine-Ten
(See listing under Best Comfort Food)

Best Family Restaurant
Cottage
(See listing under Best Breakfast)

Best Fish Taco (tie)
El Pescador
(See listing under Best Seafood)

Rubio’s
Enter Rubio’s, which serves some of the best and most totally inexpressive coastal Mexican you can fathom—like the killer seafood burritos and chicken, steak and veggie platter. Rubio’s honors environmentally sound fishing practices, helping control ocean populations as a fundamental

Rubio’s
(See listing under Best Breakfast)
part of food preparation. These guys save the oceans – you guys save the money.

Rubio’s
7530 Fay Ave. | (858) 454-0068
rubios.com

Best Fish & Chips
Hennessey’s Tavern
(See listing under Best Wings)

Best French
Bistro du Marche
Bistro du Marche by Tapenade takes guests on a memorable culinary odyssey throughout France’s opulent and diverse regions. The comfortable and relaxed atmosphere of the dining room, patio, combined with a lively ambiance, resembles the turn of the century Parisian bistro. Under Chef Jean-Michel Diot and Chef Alain Delahaye leadership, Bistro du Marche’s cuisine selects fresh, local Californian ingredients and blends them with traditional French techniques and flavors. Bistro du Marche also includes an inspired cocktail list and an extensive selection of French and California wines.

Best Gelato
Bobboi
Known for both its traditional and untraditional gelato flavors, Bobboi gelato is inspired by California yet rooted in the timeless gelato techniques of Italy. Its flavors are made from local, seasonal ingredients and the menu rotates constantly to reflect what’s available and in season. Artisanal versions of expected classic flavors are available, including pistachio, stracciatella and dark chocolate sorbet, but it’s the unexpected Bobboi signatures that stand out, from Matchatella (Japanese matcha tea and chocolate shards) to Rosehoney (organic honey and Lebanese rosewater). In addition to its own signature flavors, Bobboi also works with local chefs to create chef-driven collaboration flavors that will be on the menu at its locations and often find their way onto their menus.

Best Greek
Apollonia
Apollonia has been the destination of choice for La Jollans with an appetite for Greek delicacies. The restaurant has a handsome outdoor patio where shaded alfresco dining is delightful. Venture inside and you will find a charming ambiance in every dining room and in the beautiful lounge. Menu includes age-old favorites such as Dolmathakia and Moussaka, alongside some absolute surprises guaranteed to tantalize your adventurous curiosity. They also offer many heart-healthy items prevalent in Greek cuisine. Apollonia’s service is very friendly and as pleasant as the food.

Best Grilled Cheese
The Melt
The Melt does exactly what the name says: They melt things. They start out with the highest quality cheeses, all-natural meats and fresh artisan breads, then melt them. Every bite of the crunchy, melty grilled sandwich-es and juicy, flavorful cheese-burgers will put a smile on your face and happiness in your heart. Not only does their food taste amazing, they make it with 100% all-natural ingredients. No artificial colors or flavors. No preservatives. No high fructose corn syrup. And nothing you can’t pronounce. It’s food that tastes great
Draft Republic

Located in La Jolla, across from UTC, Draft Republic is an American gastro pub offering a casual, friendly atmosphere and innovative cuisine. Draft Republic features a beer-centric menu including favorites such as their Housemade Sausage Sampler, House Smoked Pulled Pork and the Draft Republic Burger. Guests can enjoy over 36 craft beers on tap plus housemade keg cocktails. Challenge friends to a round of ping pong, billiards, shuffleboard or foosball. Don’t miss out on the food, fun and brews.

Best Ice Cream

Cold Stone Creamery

Cold Stone Creamery — making mouths happy with gusto, happily creating fresh ice cream batches every day in store on their signature frozen granite slab. High-quality ingredients are mixed with your favorite candy, fruits or nuts, their made-to-order ice cream treats include tons of tempting flavors like Oreo Overload from their Signature line and Churro Caramel Crave from their Signature line.

Best Indian

Masala Street

Masala Street represents a culinary journey through the flavors of India and the excellence of Grand Master Chef Hemant Oberoi, one of India’s most legendary chefs and his son, Saransh Oberoi. In an illustrious career spanning four decades, he has cooked for kings, queens and heads of state as well as Hollywood and Bollywood royalty. Experience a new era of Indian dining. “Cooking is like love, both come from the heart. You have to be extremely passionate about what you do,” says Chef Hemant Oberoi. As the Grand Executive Chef of the Taj Hotel group, he was responsible for the creation of stellar restaurants such as Varq, Zodiac Grill, Souk, Masala Kraft and Blue Ginger. Masala Street 915 Pearl St. (858) 412-5897 masalastreet.com

Best Italian (tie)

Café Milano

Owner and chef Pasquale Cianni brought northern Italian cuisine to La Jolla 17 years ago and has been successfully pleasing both local residents and out-of-towners — even out-of-the-country guests — with his homemade pappardelle pasta, veal osso buco, lobster ravioli and many other authentic Italian dishes. Café Milano is an exciting and incredible experience for the whole family at affordable prices. Early bird special: 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. Choose a soup or salad, menu entrée and dessert for $22.95. Open Tue-Fri 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m., Sat 2-10 p.m., Sun. 2-9 p.m. Café Milano 711 Prospect St. (858) 454-3806 cafemilanolajolla.com

Lupi Italian Restaurant

Lupi Italian restaurant and wine bar has always been a La Jolla favorite for those who appreciate fine Italian wine and mouthwatering authentic cuisine. There’s always something new and delicious at Lupi Italian Restaurant. Partners Andriano Gasparo and Luigi Tornatore are constantly adding a new twist to the menu while keeping all your favorites. Stop by for Happy Hour specials from 5-7 pm Sunday thru Thursday. Enjoy dining on the sunny outdoor patio. Listen to live music on Wed., Fri., and Sat. You can also bring your pet for some special “pet”ality. So stop by and see what’s new at Lupi’s—your palate will be glad you did.

Lupi Italian Restaurant 5518 La Jolla Blvd. (858) 454-6421 lupivinocucina.com

Best Juice Bar

Juice Crafters

Juice Crafters is a family owned juice bar which uses raw gourmet, 100% natural ingredients to prepare some of the most amazing freshly pressed juices in the world. Their signature powerhouse smoothies are perfect for feeding your body the nutrients it needs and will leave you feeling lightweight after an amazing workout. They believe in the importance of providing natural holistic wellness and we have extracted nature’s medicine into our immunization juices. Additionally, you will find freshly made yummy juices that will suit anyone’s taste buds!

Juice Crafters 935 Silverado St. (858) 459-0569 juicecrafters.com

Best Late Night Eater

Living Room Coffee-house

(See listing under Best Cafe)

Best Late Late

Brick & Bell Cafe

Brick & Bell has been described as a cozy, sweet little coffee shop. One thing for sure, the scences have it! Apparently, the self-thousands of these wonderful pastries a year. What better to have with your scone, than coffee of course. They make a great cup of joe here as well. Make this your meeting place!
**Best Live Music (tie)**

The LOT

The LOT was inspired by and created for this neighborhood and honors the sea, art, culture, food, music, weather, and the people that make La Jolla so singular and inspiring. Customizing and creating the ultimate entertainment and lifestyle experience is their obsession. So, if you’re looking to host a private party, or maybe a company meeting and a mix of relaxation, leisure, craft cocktails, locally sourced coffees, sustainable and elevated cuisine and the latest blockbuster movies and independent films, they’ve got what you are looking for!

The LOT

7611 Fay Ave. | (858) 777-0069
thelotot.com

**Beaumont’s Eatery**

Beaumont’s has become the focal point for nightlife in Bird Rock. Live local bands play on Thur., Fri., and Sat. nights, and neighbors love that there is a live music option right down the street. The menu is exceptional and unique, and it offers a range of entrées, from a juicy “Viking Burger” to grilled lamb and patatas bravas. Weekend brunch with acoustic music performances is another favorite around the ‘hood. Count Beaumont’s for a great meal, good time and a chance to meet your neighbors!

Beaumont’s Eatery

5662 La Jolla Blvd. | (858) 459-0474
beaumontseatery.com

**Best Lobster**

**The Marine Room**

(See listing under Best Ocean View)

**Best Lunch (tie)**

**Prep Kitchen**

(See listing under Best Appetizer)

Mendocino Farms

Your neighborhood Mendocino Farms Sandwich Market is so much more than just a place to get a great sandwich. It is a gathering place for coworkers and friends, where each person who walks through the door is treated like family. It is a place where you can learn about new ingredients and trust where the food came from and how it was prepared. It is a place that cares more about its team members, guests, and local vendors than it does about its profits.

Mendocino Farms

8795 Villa La Jolla Dr. | (858) 731-8130
mendocinofarms.com

**Best Margarita**

**Puesto**

Puesto scores big when it comes to Taco’s and Margaritas. “We have a new octopus taco with crispy pulpo, avocado, chipotle crema and handmade blue corn tortillas,” said GM Douglas McCallum, which encourages patrons to “visit our popular eatery for unique artisanal takes on tacos, ceviches, margaritas and more in a bright and breezy eclectic dining room.” Don’t forget to check out Puesto’s Happy Hour, Taco Tuesday and the Taco Bar Saturday nights.

Puesto

1026 Wall Street | (858) 454-1260
eatpuesto.com

**Best Martini**

**The Manhattan**

Located inside the Empress Hotel, on Fay Avenue, Manhattan of La Jolla is a casual, elegant setting where you would expect to see Old Blue Eyes or Danny Ocean romancing a beautiful woman while she sips her martini over dinner. The restaurant, which was established more than 29 years ago is well known for its culinary excellence.

The Manhattan

7766 Fay Ave. | (858) 459-0700
manhattanoflajolla.com

**Best Mediterranean**

**Apollonia Greek Bistro**

(See listing under Best Greek)

**Taco Stand**

When’s the last time you had a custom-made taco? Usually, those things are one-and-done, with a particular size fitting all. Not here -- here, you can pretty much make your own stuff, with (almost) all the guacamole you can stand. You can do the same thing in downtown Encinitas. Or you could go on a run between the three and see which is better. Chances are the quality’s set at the same high standard.

Taco Stand

621 Pearl St. | (858) 551-6666
letstaco.com

**Best Mexican (tie)**

**Puesto**

(See listing under Best Margarita)

Jose’s Courtyard

You’ll find all the traditional dishes you’d expect from an authentic Mexican kitchen along with some local favorites. From Ceviche to Veggie Burritos – everything from our sauces and sides to our marinades and chips and salsa are made in house. The bar features a unparalleled craft margarita and cocktail menu using sustainable and elevated cuisine and honoring the sea, art, culture, food, music, weather, and the people that make La Jolla so singular and inspiring.
Voted a Reader’s Choice for Breakfast & Omelette

Brockton Villa Restaurant
Located directly across from the world-famous La Jolla Cove, locals and visitors alike love Breakfast at Brockton Villa! With a huge menu of delicious breakfast options including the equally famous “Coast Toast” and the Wild Mushroom & Asparagus Omelette, this seaside location also offers Lunch, Social Hour, and Dinner. The signature “Brocktails” are the perfect accompaniment.

Brockton Villa Restaurant
1235 Coast Blvd. | (858) 454-7393
brocktonvilla.com

Best Organic
Lean and Green
(See listing under Best Healthy Dining)

Best Omelette (tie)
Richard Walker's Pancake House
(See listing under Best Breakfast)

Best Pastery (tie)
Michelle Coulon
Dessertier
(See listing under Best Desserts)

Best Pancake
Richard Walker Pancake House
(See listing under Best Breakfast)

Best Oysters (tie)
Crab Catcher
Family owned and operated for over 36 years, Crab Catcher is one of San Diego’s premier seafood restaurants. Enjoy locally sourced hook and line caught fish, wild caught shellfish from the Baja Peninsula, and our signature Bering Sea Red King Crab legs – all prepared with the freshest seasonal, locally grown produce. All dishes are prepared in innovative culinary styles and finished with fresh, exciting presentations to ensure each plate showcases the flavor, quality, and natural beauty of the ingredients.

Crab Catcher
1296 Prospect St. | (858) 454-9587
crabcatcher.com

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737 Pearl St. #113 La Jolla, CA (858) 456-0462

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634 PEARL ST., LA JOLLA 858-456-2526

READERS CHOICE AWARDS 2019

Harry’s Coffee Shop
Newly opened in 1941, one symbol has stood for the most exquisite dining experience in San Diego. The Sea-horse symbol of The Marine Room has earned countless accolades. Critics have described its devotion to fresh seafood, sea-can fare of eggs, bacon and pan-cakes in the morning and club sandwiches and charbroiled burgers in the afternoon, and has kept the customers coming back. Open at 6 in the morning, closed by 3 in the afternoon, Harry’s remains a familiar, friendly place near and dear to La Jollans’ hearts.

Harry’s Coffee Shop
7545 Girard Ave.
4547781
harryscoffeeshop.com

Mustangs & Burros at Estancia
La Jollans looking to enjoy South-western cuisine in festive setting should head to Mustangs & Burros at Estancia La Jolla, a classic rancho-style restaurant with a cozy dining room and spacious patio reminiscent of a hacienda. Both areas feature warm, inviting fireplaces. Enjoy small plates with big Baja-inspired flavors and extraordinarily house-crafted cocktails, including innovative margaritas & house-made sangria. Live Spanish guitar often accompanies a dinner of regional cuisine inspired by the season, and events like the annual Herradura tequila dinner make Mustangs & Burros the place to be.

Mustangs & Burros at Estancia
9700 N. Torrey Pines Road
(858) 550-1000

Herringbone
Herringbone features a “Fish Meats Field” coastal cuisine with an emphasis on line-caught seafood and high-quality meats. Herringbone La Jolla takes guests on an ocean-to-table culinary excursion and social dining experience with al fresco dining, a raw bar, exhibition kitchen and 100 year-old olive trees in the famed beach community.

Herringbone
7837 Herschel Ave | (858) 459-0221
herringboneats.com

Best Organic
Lean and Green
(See listing under Best Healthy Dining)

Best Omelette (tie)
Richard Walker’s Pancake House
(See listing under Best Breakfast)

Best Pastery (tie)
Michelle Coulon
Dessertier
(See listing under Best Desserts)

Best Pancake
Richard Walker Pancake House
(See listing under Best Breakfast)

Best Oysters (tie)
Crab Catcher
Family owned and operated for over 36 years, Crab Catcher is one of San Diego’s premier seafood restaurants. Enjoy locally sourced hook and line caught fish, wild caught shellfish from the Baja Peninsula, and our signature Bering Sea Red King Crab legs – all prepared with the freshest seasonal, locally grown produce. All dishes are prepared in innovative culinary styles and finished with fresh, exciting presentations to ensure each plate showcases the flavor, quality, and natural beauty of the ingredients.

Crab Catcher
1296 Prospect St. | (858) 454-9587
crabcatcher.com

Best Organic
Lean and Green
(See listing under Best Healthy Dining)

Best Omelette (tie)
Richard Walker’s Pancake House
(See listing under Best Breakfast)

Best Pastery (tie)
Michelle Coulon
Dessertier
(See listing under Best Desserts)
menu with recipes from all over Italy, Piatti features Italian-inspired, seasonally-dictated cuisine with an emphasis on local farms and producers. Enjoy simple rustic, flavorful cuisine with unpretentious design, an approachable and interesting wine list – many of which are served via our barrel-to-table program – a comprehensive offering of craft beers and unique, artisan cocktails.

Piatti
2182 Avenida De La Playa
La Jolla Shores | 858-454-1589
lajolla.piatti.com

Best Pasta Dish (tie)
Piazza 1909
5 Awards/Voted Best Pasta & one of the top 3 Overall Best Restaurants in La Jolla. Most genuine Italian experience with Chef Stefano Ceresoli’s cuisine made from scratch. Featuring Pasta, Pizza, Seafood, and Gluten & Vegan Friendly options. Wine Bar, Brunch, Large Patios, and Dog Menu also available.
Piazza 1909
7731 Fay Ave. | (858) 412-3108
piazza1909.com

Most Romantic
Osteria Romantica
Located in the heart of La Jolla shores, this simple but wonderfully comfortable setting, Osteria Romantica generates good feelings as one dines on its good food. The voices of Pavarotti and other famous singers emerge from the background, filling the room softly with operatic melodies. An outside patio provides seating for diners who wish to enjoy the sunny afternoons and cool La Jolla evenings. Opened by Fabio Speziali and Antonio Mastellone in 2004. Speziali said, “and we are from different regions of Italy. But we create together and offer dishes from all of Italy. Enjoy the regular menu and daily specials.

Osteria Romantica
2151 Avenida De La Playa
(858) 551-1221
osteriaromantica.com

Best Salad
Lean and Green Café
(See listing under Best Healthy Food)

Best Place to go on a Budget
Don Carlos
(See listing under Best Burrito)

Best Pet-Friendly Place
Beaumont’s Eatery
(See listing under Best Live Music)

Best Place for B-day Party
Sammy’s Woodfired Pizza
(See listing under Best Woodfired Pizza)

Best Pizza
Mr. Moto
Too far from New York for thin crust pizza? No problem. There is authentic thin crust pies and slices right here. So whether you’re an east coast transplant, thin crust connoisseur, or a “newbie” to slices you can fold, you will love Mr Moto in La Jolla. You’ll find pizza, calzones, stromboli, heroes, fresh salads, and desserts. They have got it all. Dine In or Carry Out. If you can’t make up your mind on what to order, that’s ok. There are always a variety of slices to choose from. They buy only the best quality ingredients on the market. Everything is prepared daily. You, “their customers”, are the most important part of their business, and they make sure that you are well cared for so you will keep coming back for more.

Mr. Moto
617 Pearl St. | (858) 729-0717
mrmotopizza.com

Best Place to People Watch (tie)
Living Room
(See listing under Best Café)

Best Place to go on a Budget
Don Carlos
(See listing under Best Burrito)

Best Pet-Friendly Place
Beaumont’s Eatery
(See listing under Best Live Music)

Best Place for B-day Party
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Mr. Moto
617 Pearl St. | (858) 729-0717
mrmotopizza.com

Best Place to People Watch (tie)
Living Room
(See listing under Best Café)
La Jolla Village News

THANK YOU LA JOLLA for voting us Best Thai Restaurant!

Family Owned & Operated Since 1996

7734 Girard Ave.
La Jolla, CA 92037
858.456.0466
facebook.com/spicemandricethailajolla

Enjoy a Taste of Milano in La Jolla! Chef Pasquale’s 35 years of experience with Northern Italian Cuisine and hospitality offers an incredible experience for the entire family. By making his own breads, pastas, and desserts daily, he guarantees a great start, middle, and finish to every meal.

Café Milano
711 Pearl St. | (858) 454-3806
cafemilanolajolla.com

Best Seafood (tie)
Truluck’s
(See listing under Best Overall)

El Pescador
El Pescador first opened its doors in Del Mar in 1974. In 1978, sixteen year old Sean Shannon trad- ed his paper route in for his first real job, “El Pescador-clean-up kid”. Seven years later Shannon opened his own store on Pearl Street in La Jolla. Since then the menu has increased to an array of char-grilled and sauteed seafood items. The full service fish market remains unsurpassed for its qual- ity and selection. It has now been proudly serving San Diegan’s for over forty five years!

El Pescador
634 Pearl Street | (858) 456-2526
elpescadorfishmarket.com

The Med
THE MED is the premier dining destination of La Valencia Hotel with its commitment to innova- tive cuisine and uncompromising service. This inspired Great Room designed restaurant offers mas- terful seasonal seafood dishes that personally its rich Spanish influences re-imagined as Califor- nia coastal cuisine. Headline dishes like spicy Baja Shrimp Chi- laquiles, La V Lobster Roll, and show-stopping Surf & Turf tell a story of the freshest ingredients sourced locally and thoughtfully, captivating both the eye and the palate. Serving brunch, lunch, and dinner in both the comfort- able and sophisticated dining room and on the iconic ocean view terrace, guests are enchant- ed by riveting views of the sparkling Pacific.

Sushi Mori
Located in the quaint area of La Jolla Shores, you can escape the hustle La Jolla, You’ll find an authentic selection of sushi at prices that will have you wanting more.

Mandarin House
(See listing under Best Chinese)

Don Carlos
(See listing under Best Mexican)

Draft Republic
Best Sports Bar
(See listing under Best Bar)

The Shores Restaurant
Best Sunday Brunch
(See listing under Best Brunch)

Spice & Rice Thai Kitchen
Voted Best Thai
2161 Avenida De La Playa, La Jolla Shores | (858) 551-9841

El Pescador
2161 Avenida De La Playa, La Jolla Shores | (858) 454-3806

Best Thai
Spice & Rice Thai Kitchen
(See listing under Best Thai)

Best Vegetarian
Lean and Green Café
(See listing under Best Healthy Dining)
Thank You for Voting:

Gold for Steak & Prime Rib

Silver for Martini & Ocean View

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Reservations: 877-698-6666  Private Events: 877-266-6336
donovanssteakhouse.com
Voted Best Mexican Fast Food

Don Carlos Taco Shop
737 Pearl St., Ste. 113
(858) 456-0462
estaburrito.com

Don Carlos Taco Shop

If a picture is worth a thousand words, Don Carlos Taco Shop has singlehandedly written every book published in the last 40 years. The eatery’s website makes regular Mexican entries look like virtual portraits – the enchiladas, carne asada and, yes, burritos make you think you’re already at the restaurant. If things look that appetizing from afar, imagine what awaits you when you finally pay a visit.

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READERS CHOICE AWARDS 2019

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and a Favorite for Best Bar & Burger

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Weekend Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Daily

LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEKEND
Weekend Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Daily

THANK YOU LA JOLLA FOR VOTING FOR US!

VOTED BEST:
CAFE & OCEAN VIEW
and a Favorite for Best Breakfast & Sunday Brunch

BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER
Weekend Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Daily

HAVE YOUR EVENTS WITH US!
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1235 Coast Blvd. • La Jolla, CA 92037 | 858.454.7393
brocktonvilla.com

Voted Best Overall Restaurant

Truluck’s at UTC Aventine
8900 University Center Lane
(858) 453-2583 | trulucks.com

Truluck’s

Truluck’s is an escape — a getaway for the senses. Savor the freshest crab, direct from the restaurant’s own fisheries. Truluck’s boasts: “From our traps to your table in less than 24 hours.” Enjoy the fresh-catch seafood menu or select tender, juicy steaks grilled to perfection. Then complement it all with delicious wines by the glass and bottle. Come early and enjoy cocktail hour from 4:30 to 7 p.m. daily and specially priced appetizers and drink menu.

Best Wings

Hennessey’s Tavern

Every tavern seems to do spicy buffalo chicken wings these days, and they’re probably pretty good for the most part – but for your money, Hennessey’s corners the market, and the staff isn’t telling how. Maybe they, like, put something illegal in the chicken or the spice or both; that might account for one illegal in the chicken or the spice or both. Hennessey’s Tavern
7811 Herschel Ave. | (858) 551-8772
hennesseystavern.com

Best Wine Bar
We Olive Wine Bar & Gourmet Foods
(See listing under Best Wine Shop)

Best Wine Selection
Nine-Ten
(See listing under Best Chef)
Voted Best Thai

Spice & Rice Thai Kitchen
This establishment offers a tantalizing menu and a clean-air approach to dining. Be warned: Many of the dishes are on the spicy side, like those in many Thai restaurants. The kitchen is accommodating and will moderate the seasoning to suit your taste. Most dishes can be made as a vegetarian version. Prices are quite appealing, and the Thai salads are excellent. Sit back, relax and enjoy a little spice and rice in your life.

Voted Best Cafe

Living Room Coffeehouse
The Living Room has truly lived up to its name in La Jolla. The café has drawn young and old alike to sip tea, coffee and deluxe smoothies in a homely ambiance furnished with antique, couches and wooden tables. Patrons find the communal atmosphere inspiring and relaxing; you’ll find groups of friends smoking the hookah on the upstairs patio and others poring over books in the back. Enjoy scrumptious desserts along with wine, beer, cocktails and hookah tobacco. Enjoy the views from the second floor ocean view room and don’t miss happy hour every day from 12-6 p.m. offering bottled & draft beer, wine, mimosas and well drinks Monday— all day! Try our daily lunch special. Open late every day ‘til 2 a.m. Celebrating 26 years in business.

Thank You La Jolla
for Voting us 2019 Reader’s Choice Award Winners!

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(in the Merrill Lynch Bldg. next to La Jolla Sport Club)
858-456-5222
www.smampsypizza.com

Best Woodfired Pizza
Sammy’s Woodfired Pizza
Families with discerning taste can count on Sammy’s for their family night out. Patrons clearly support Sammy’s mission to mix flavor with freshness in its best woodfired pizzas. Forget the boring cheese and pepperoni of old pizza. Sammy’s redefines the genre with pies such as artichoke and homemade sauce, five cheeses or a salad topping

Best Frozen Yogurt
Frogleranders Frozen Yogurt
Frodlanders Frozen Yogurt has been dishing out chilly treats for more than 30 years. And in that time, they’ve had plenty of opportunity for delicious innovation. Sure, you can create your-own frozen yogurt cup by choosing from the rotating flavors and fresh fruit and candy toppings. But you can also dig into an aci bowl, sip on a frozen yogurt frappuccino, enjoy a classic banana split, or try an Affogato, an espresso shot poured on top of a vanilla or chocolate yogurt. With standard flavors of Original Tart, Vanilla, Chocolate, Peanut Butter, and a daily rotation of new flavors including Kona Coffee, Irish mint, red velvet, cake batter, and pomegranate-raspberry. They dream up a new treat every time you visit. Now you can also get La Jolla’s best crepes at Frogleranders! Featuring authentic french sweet or savory crepes available from 8am - 10pm. Gluten Free (Buckwheat flour) options available. Also featuring organic, gourmet coffee (cappuccino, espresso, etc.)

Thank You
For Voting!
Thank You Village News readers for your votes for the 5th year in a row!

Gold Best Breakfast

Gold Best Pancake

Gold Best Omelette

Open Daily from 6:30AM-2:30PM. Breakfast and Lunch served all day. No Reservations. richardwalkers.com

CARLSBAD
760.893.8400
2656 Gateway Rd, Bressi Ranch Square

LA JOLLA
858.459.8800
909 Prospect St., Between Girar and Fay

SAN DIEGO
619.231.7777
520 Front St., Just South of Market