

San Diego

Road Trips

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ULTIMATE ADVENTURES

up the coast,
across deserts,
around wineries
& into national
parks

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PORTRAITS OF THE HOMELESS

Three San
Diegans tell
their stories

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TOP LAWYERS

PAGE 106

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BOSA

76

ROAD TRIPS

Buckle up—we've got 21 reasons to get out of town, with destinations ranging from one to eight hours away. We're headed to the desert, national parks, wine country resorts, restaurant hot spots, and more. And if you'd rather take the train, we've got easy itineraries for that, too.

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PUTTING A FACE TO
SAN DIEGO'S HOMELESS

Inside an Alpha Project shelter, writer Kelly Davis sits down with three people who share what drove them to homelessness, how they find their own sanctuary, and what they've learned. Plus, facts and figures on the crisis and what you can do to help.

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FASHION SHOOT IN GLAMIS
(PAGE 57)

MARCH



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MARCH

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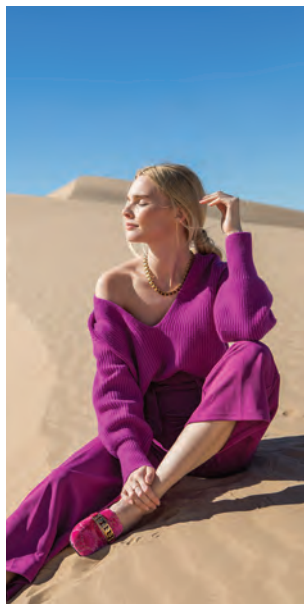
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ON THE COVER

Overlooking Salsipuedes Bay en route to Valle de Guadalupe, photographed by Emily Kaszton (*newsstand*); Enly Tammela modeling all red threads in Glamis, photographed by Becca Batista, with creative direction from Sydney Goodwin, styling by Kristi Brooks, and hair and makeup by Elizabeth Root (*subscribers*)



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EVENT

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EXCERPT

Our Localchella Wish List for 2019

by JEFF TERICH



For the past decade or so, most music festivals in the US have had to live in Coachella's shadow. It's the first to announce its lineup, always stacked with some of the biggest names in popular music—and for those able to squint hard enough to see the fine print, up-and-comers worth watching. One of the benefits of being in San Diego, however, is that once Coachella's tickets sell out—which often happens pretty early—bands from the festival's lineup eventually end up announcing shows here in smaller venues. It's informally known as "Localchella," and it's almost certainly going to happen again in 2019.

Read the full post at sdmag.com/blogs

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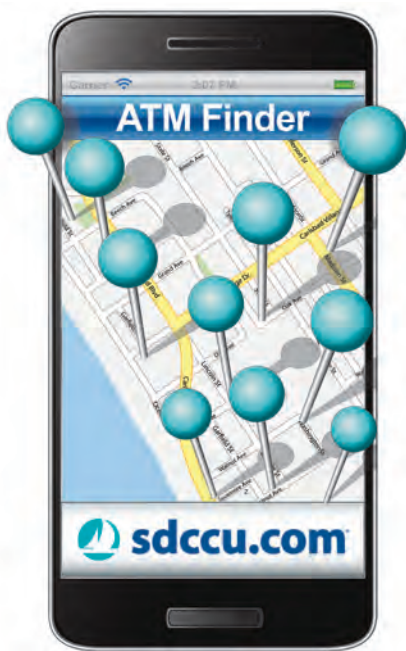


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VOICES + VIEWS

March

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BECCA BATISTA
PHOTOGRAPHER

"Desert Dream" (page 57)
was Batista's eighth go-round

behind the lens for our seasonal fashion specials, which have taken her to airports, motels, cafés, and this month, on a 2.5-hour road trip to Glamis in Imperial County. She and *San Diego Magazine's* creative director had been talking about a shoot at the dunes for three or four years. "We both knew the setting would be absolutely amazing and had to make it happen one day," Batista says. "I just never thought that 'one day' would be while I was seven months pregnant!" She didn't let the baby bump slow her down, though. "I'm never more present as when I'm behind the camera shooting a muse in incredible clothes. Our model, Enly, was an absolute pro and moves like a dancer." @beccabatistaphoto



EMILY KASZTON
PHOTOGRAPHER

In tune with this month's cover story (page 76), Kaszton took a road trip from her home in

Newport Beach to Valle de Guadalupe to snag our cover shot—and woke up at 3 a.m. to do it. "This was my first road trip down to Valle. We left early, because I wanted to capture an image that showcased the twists and turns of the road with the golden-lit coastline in sight." She brought along her friend and tour guide Vanessa Vigoren of Vino Valle Ventures for a little guidance—and driving assistance, while she took photos via drone from the passenger seat. The resulting shots were as gold as the coastline itself. @EmilyKaszton



KELLY DAVIS
WRITER

With 17 years of reporting on San Diego's homeless to her credit, Davis was just the writer for "Putting a Face to San Diego's Homeless" (page 92). She visited the Alpha Project shelter downtown to chat with three of its residents. "They've always been open to me coming to the tent and talking to people," says Davis, who's written for *Voice of San Diego*, *Vice*, *The Guardian*, and also helped found *San Diego CityBeat* in 2002. As for this month's assignment, "What's printed is just a small part of much longer conversations. Getting to hear folks' stories underscores the resiliency of people who live on the street, despite facing challenges most of us couldn't fathom. It reaffirmed that there's no one-size-fits-all solution to homelessness." ➔ kellylynnDavis

ERRATA Page 20 of the January 2019 issue misspelled Martha Barnette's last name as Barnett.



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BOSA



Dune It Right

San Diego Magazine creative director Sydnie Goodwin has dreamed of coordinating a photo shoot at the Glamis Dunes for many years now. “Finally, all of the stars aligned,” she says of our Spring Fashion Special (page 57). “Bright colors were the trend, and I wanted to show them monochromatically. Putting the looks against a neutral backdrop like sand meant they would pop dramatically.” To pull it off required a 2.5-hour road trip to the Imperial County territory, an RV rental for wardrobe, hair, and makeup, and “enough food and water to get us through the seven-hour shoot,” adds photographer Becca Batista. “There’s no catering out in the desert!” Model Enly Tammela brought the vision to life in six looks while Goodwin directed her crew into areas untouched by dune buggies and other visitors (the team even tossed the model her shoes from afar to keep the sand pristine). Goodwin sums it up: “The end result was a dream come true.”



BY THE NUMBERS

7

The photographer was seven months pregnant at the time of the shoot

1,128

Miles logged, between the crew's round-trip drive from San Diego to Glamis and the model's train trip from LA to San Diego and back

30

The Camp 'n Style trailer for wardrobe, hair, and makeup prep was 30 feet long

48°

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Gaining Perspective

If the name weren't a dead giveaway, our job at this magazine is to show you how to see San Diego. That means everything from encouraging you to try a new bar and see a just-debuted play to understanding minimum wage laws at restaurants and learning how local scientists are making industry-shaking discoveries.

It's all about perspective—bringing together people of different backgrounds, cultures, and educations in one magazine. And you'll find a lot of perspectives in this issue. Author and East County resident Don Winslow (page 30) explains how vacationing in Ensenada laid the groundwork for his new novel about drug cartels, and clears up some of America's misconceptions about Mexico. Chef Rob Ruiz (page 42) tells us why, as a city, our lack of commitment to sustainable food sources has kept us from graduating to the big leagues. Our cover story looks at road trip ideas (page 76), whether you're a family, a foodie, or a flower child.

But nowhere is this sense of perspective stronger than in "Putting a Face to San Diego's Homeless" (page 92). Writer Kelly Davis interviewed three people living in Alpha Project's downtown shelter, which I also visited last summer. There's a gated entrance and staff to help with check-in. There are trailers for medical services, case management, 12-step program meetings, showers, laundry services, clothes to borrow for job interviews, and more. The tent itself is enormous—like a high school gym. At the time, it was insufferably hot outside but the tent was air-conditioned. There are seating areas with TVs, and refrigerators holding medicine and late plates for residents who have night shifts. All of the 324 beds were spoken for, but many were unoccupied—those people were out looking for jobs, cleaning the streets (through Wheels for Change, they get \$46 per day), and yes, going to school. When I visited, 42 of the residents were students at City College, 113 were veterans, 83 were age 18–24, and 139 were 62 or older.

Our story went to press before the results of the 2019 Point in Time Count could be tallied, but in 2018, San Diego's homeless population numbered more than 8,500, with loss of employment the top cause.

Turn to page 99 to learn some of the ways you can help, and in the meantime, if you pass a person in the street, remember that the least you can do is look him or her in the eye and say hello. Dignity is one thing we can never afford to lose.



Erin Meanley Glenny

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SEND US A POSTCARD, ARCHIE!

As you read this, Senior Editor Archana Ram is leaving *SDM* to embark on a road trip through the Western US. The road trips feature was her final piece as a staffer, but look for her byline in upcoming issues as she contributes from afar. Until then, follow her at @slowtravelmovement.

from the
EDITOR

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:
 Best of North County

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PEOPLE PLACES



GARDEN OF EARTHLY DELIGHTS

Ready for some color after all the winter rain? Soak up one of the many visual art exhibitions opening this month in San Diego, at galleries large and small. We've picked three standouts worth your considered contemplation, from artists as close as Barrio Logan to as far away as the Land Down Under—like Melbourne's Polixeni Papapetrou, the photographer of *Rhodora* here. Turn the page for more on the Aussie artist. ►



Defining Place/Space: Contemporary Photography from Australia at MoPA

Papapetrou (previous page), one of 13 artists featured in this exhibit, was best known for her highly staged arrangements. She often featured her own children in theatrical costumes, riffing on Lewis Carroll and Diane Arbus. Following her death last year, her husband eulogized, “The conceit goes that we make children, but Poli used to say that the children made her: They made her as a person and made her as an artist.”

Another highlight is Brisbane’s Michael Cook, whose work has been shown around the world, from the British Museum to Switzerland and Hong Kong, and even in the office of former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull. **Beach Grubs** (left) is one of eight composite works from his 2018 series *Invasion*, which calls on B-movie sci-fi and horror iconography to imagine Aboriginals as aliens invading mainland Britain—complete with laser-shooting kangaroos and lorikeets. It’s a more ironic, provocative continuation of his work driven by Australia’s conflicted history of European colonialism. *Through September 22; 1649 El Prado, Balboa Park; mopa.org*



The Crow Show at The Studio Door

Beloved North Park space The Studio Door reopened in a new Hillcrest location last month with 18 open-air, work-only painters’ studios surrounding a central gallery. True to its philosophy that Southern Californians are talented enough to exhibit side-by-side with artists from around the world, it’s hitting the ground running with its fifth annual themed show, which invites artists to submit work depicting the real or mythological faces of crows, like Tina Dille’s *Death’s Messenger* (above). Past years have seen the clever *Corvus* represented in steel sculpture, alabaster, fiber art, bronze, linocut, acrylic and oil paint, and more, nearly all of them available for purchase. And there’s good reason to trust the selection—appropriately enough, the show is juried by Chris Redfern, executive director of the San Diego Audubon Society. *Through March 30; 3867 Fourth Avenue, Hillcrest; thestudiodoor.com*



Artivismo Loko at Mesa College Art Gallery

You may not know his name, but you’ve probably seen his murals around town. Originally from Peru, Mario Torero was a founding member of Chicano Park, Centro Cultural de la Raza, and the San Diego Commission of Arts and Culture. He led the 2012 restoration of the Chicano Park murals; his *Eyes of Picasso* watched over downtown for three decades (before being demolished to make way for Horton Plaza), and new versions

have appeared in Barcelona, Lima, and most recently at SDSU. Torero teaches classes on “artivism” at Bread & Salt in Barrio Logan, and now Mesa College has chosen a collection of the local legend’s vibrant, politically resonant paintings, including *La Lucha Continua* (above), to showcase in their campus art gallery. *Through March 21; 7250 Mesa College Drive, Clairemont Mesa; sdmesagallery.com*

—DAN LETCHWORTH



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INSIDE THE ICON

San Diego Botanic Garden

An avocado farmer, a divorced quail conservationist, and even an insect fair all play a part in how SDBG blossomed—over 102 years—into the 37-acre oasis we know today *by* SARAH PFLEDDERER

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

When Donald and Gertrude Ingersoll purchased the 16.5-acre parcel of Encinitas in 1917 that would one day become the San Diego Botanic Garden, there were only native plants in sight. The couple changed that, planting eucalyptus trees and taming the wild territory to build a ranch house with the help of friend and architect J. Frank Cullen, a prominent developer of Cardiff-by-the-Sea. (The house still stands today as a museum, and its Walled Garden is used as a wedding venue.) They sold the property to an avocado farmer in 1923, and 20 years later Kansas City transplants Charles and Ruth Larbee scooped it up, plus a neighboring 10 acres, for an estimated \$17,850.

FOR THE BIRDS

Over six steadfast years, the Larbees transformed the property into a quail refuge (Ruth could often be seen in her overalls and green rainboots admiring them in the spring) and botanic garden that Ruth named “El Rancho San Ysidro de las Flores.” They brought in rare plants they’d admired on their world travels—cork oaks (pictured), aloes, dragon trees, southern magnolia, Torrey pine trees—and welcomed scout troops to come learn about them. Charles divorced Ruth in 1950, leaving her to tend the ranch on her own for seven years before she donated the 26.5 acres (by then valued at \$98,000) to San Diego County under the condition it be called “Quail Park.” Though she died in 1969, her memory lives on through the Quail Gardens Foundation, an entity created in her honor to oversee the gardens.

HOW THEY OPERATE

In 1970, the “Quail Park Botanic Gardens” officially opened to the public with free admission, subsidized by county tax dollars. That funding was scrapped in 1993, but the foundation reached a deal with the county to continue operating the property, then drummed up excitement (and donations) with its first insect fair and, in 1996, its inaugural Garden of Lights spectacle. That event is still going strong—last Christmas Eve, attendance hit an all-time high of 28,882, in one day accounting for 14 percent of the gardens’ annual attendance. Renamed the San Diego Botanic Garden in 2009, it’s now operated by 31 full-time employees, nine horticulturists, and 48,000 annual volunteer hours. Funding comes from admission, membership programs, a gift shop, plants sales, and fund-raising events like its annual gala.

WORTH THE TRIP

Deemed one of the “Top 10 Gardens Worth Travelling For” at the 2017 North American Garden Tourism Conference, SDBG now sprawls over 37 acres, with four miles of trails and 29 themed gardens that house 4,756 taxa, including 304 species of plants found in no other botanical garden in the world. The most finicky is the corpse flower, which—if kept at a stable 80 percent humidity and 60 degrees—blooms as rarely as once per decade. Native plants remain the easiest to care for and attract passing birds on the Pacific Flyway—111 species were spotted last year alone, and an endangered California gnatcatcher even nested there. And while its current largest plant is a brown-woolly fig (*Ficus drupacea*), a recently planted New Zealand kauri tree (*Agathis australis*)—the second largest in the world after the sequoia—is vying for the big honcho title. (Just give it another 100 years.)



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7 p.m. at Warwick's,
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ARTS + CULTURE

The Border Between Fiction and Reality

Award-winning crime writer Don Winslow honed his chops for spinning fiction out of heavy topics right here in San Diego. In his latest novel, *The Border*, the former private investigator concludes his popular trilogy about a Mexican drug cartel.

by MICHAEL BERRY

Without his San Diego digs, Don Winslow might not have risen to such literary grace. His award-winning career as a novelist, with two film adaptations to date including Oliver Stone's *Savages*, has been driven in large part by a fascination with our border region—which stems from a newspaper article he read 20 years ago.

It was September 19, 1998. Nineteen men, women, and children had been massacred outside Ensenada, reportedly by a drug cartel, near where Winslow and his family vacationed. The anger and confusion he felt about the incident compelled him to embark on an all-consuming journey, from the poorest villages of Latin America to the opioid-flooded streets of New Jersey. His research took him to airports, border crossings, and prisons. He even chased a guy down a New York City subway tunnel. “One of the most memorable visits involved sitting in a ‘bullet-resistant’ Border Patrol car within sight of cartel-owned buildings,” Winslow says. The cartel had offered a bounty for shooting an agent—lucky for him, no shots were fired that day.

Winslow's Cartel trilogy concluded last month with *The Border*, capping off a story begun in 2005's *The Power of the Dog* and continued in 2015's *The Cartel*. The series follows the tangled relationship between DEA agent Art Keller and drug lord Adán Barrera, digging deep into the underground world of Mexican drug cartels and their allies, opponents, and victims from the 1970s to the present. Winslow captures the complexity, ferocity, and unpredictability of the battle for dominance in the pot, meth, and coke trades, a struggle whose consequences continue to reverberate in the ongoing opioid epidemic.

Winslow's expertise on

the subject comes both from his former experience as a private investigator and trial consultant and from his own extensive research. He reads obsessively: history, journalism, documentary sources like court records, police reports, FBI, DEA, and CIA reports—and he often talks to primary sources themselves. But one of the harshest realities he sees in the War on Drugs is the misconceptions surrounding it. “One is that it's a Mexican problem,” he says. “It's an American problem. We're the people who send around 60 billion dollars a year in illicit funds to Mexico. Things are worse than

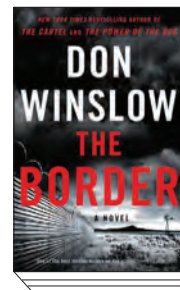
they've ever been.”

The failure of the United States' War on Drugs breeds spectacular violence south of the border—kidnappings, torture, assassinations—and turning this into fiction for a living requires him to keep the real-life mayhem in perspective.

“Before I was a writer, I investigated murder and child sexual abuse cases. None of this violence was new to me. Of course, the level of violence that came into being with the Mexican cartels was something I think none of us dreamed of in our worst nightmares.”

In that vein, the title of *The Border* takes on a double meaning. “I'm writing about the physical border, but also borders of behavior, of ethics—borders inside people and the lines they won't cross. I hope when people read these books, they get a realistic view of that world and gain insight beyond the headlines.”

Winslow feels fortunate to live in East County, where he can practice a more lenient border policy—i.e., he lets neighbors' livestock graze on his land. (It helps with fire suppression, he says.) Life in San Diego has definitely shaped him as a writer. “It was sort of a revolution for me,” he says. “I can't imagine my career without it.”



KEN GOODMAN



SCOTT CONANT

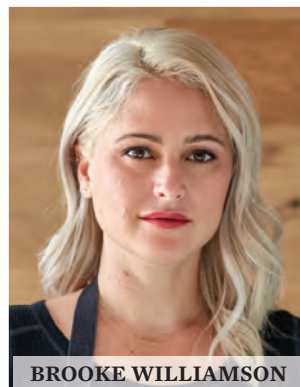
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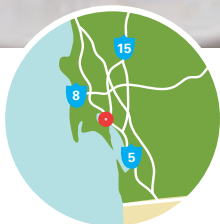
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NEIGHBORHOOD GUIDE

Little Italy

The epicenter of all things cool and culinary in San Diego continues to reinvent itself. Here's where to dine, shop, and sip now in Little Italy.

by **ARCHANA RAM** @archanapram



HERB & WOOD Chef-owner Brian Malarkey has Anima (downtown) and Herb & Sea (Encinitas) due this year, but the concept that reenergized the Malarkey name continues to impress in Little Italy. Beyond wood-fired dishes and off-menu Parker rolls for dinner, don't miss brunch, where the huckleberry-topped Dutch baby soufflé shines. [@herbandwood](http://herbandwood.com)

LITTLE ITALY FOOD HALL Choose from paper-thin pizza, thick lobster rolls, Asian street eats, and more at this marketplace of local vendors. On March 20 you can watch a demo on how to cook a live lobster by Sam the Cooking Guy (the brains behind the hall's Not Not Tacos) and the Wicked Maine Lobster. littleitalyfoodhall.com
@littleitalyfoodhall

MIKKELLER BREWING After success in Miramar, the Danish beer brand brought their hazy IPAs and fruit-forward beers along with their bright, funky cartoon art to a Little Italy taproom last year. Try the Raspberry Blush for a tart brew that goes down easy. mikkellersd.com @mikkellersd

LOVE & AESTHETICS Step inside this quirky shop for unique gifts, like brass raptor-talon candle holders and gin decanters shaped like rockets. loveandaesthetics.com
@loveandaesthetics

BORN & RAISED Dine on dry-aged steak, omelets cooked tableside, and classic cocktails at this splashy steakhouse by CH Projects (Ironside, Craft & Commerce), where waiters don tuxedos and Converse and portraits of gangster rappers hang

on the walls. Next up, CH is opening the brunch-focused Morning Glory in Little Italy. bornandraisedsteak.com
@bornandraisedstk

NOLITA HALL The Euro-inspired beer emporium is anchored at the bar, where an old-fashioned train departures board lists the taps (there's wine and cocktails, too). The menu has veggie starters with fried sage and other gourmet toppings, plus wood-fired pizzas. nolitaHall.com @nolitaHall

CARRUTH WINE GARDEN Away from the bustle of Kettner Boulevard is this oasis of a winery with patio space dressed in string lights, brick facades, and trees aplenty. During their weekday happy hour, glasses are \$3 off and bottles are \$5 off. carruthcellars.com
@carruthcellars



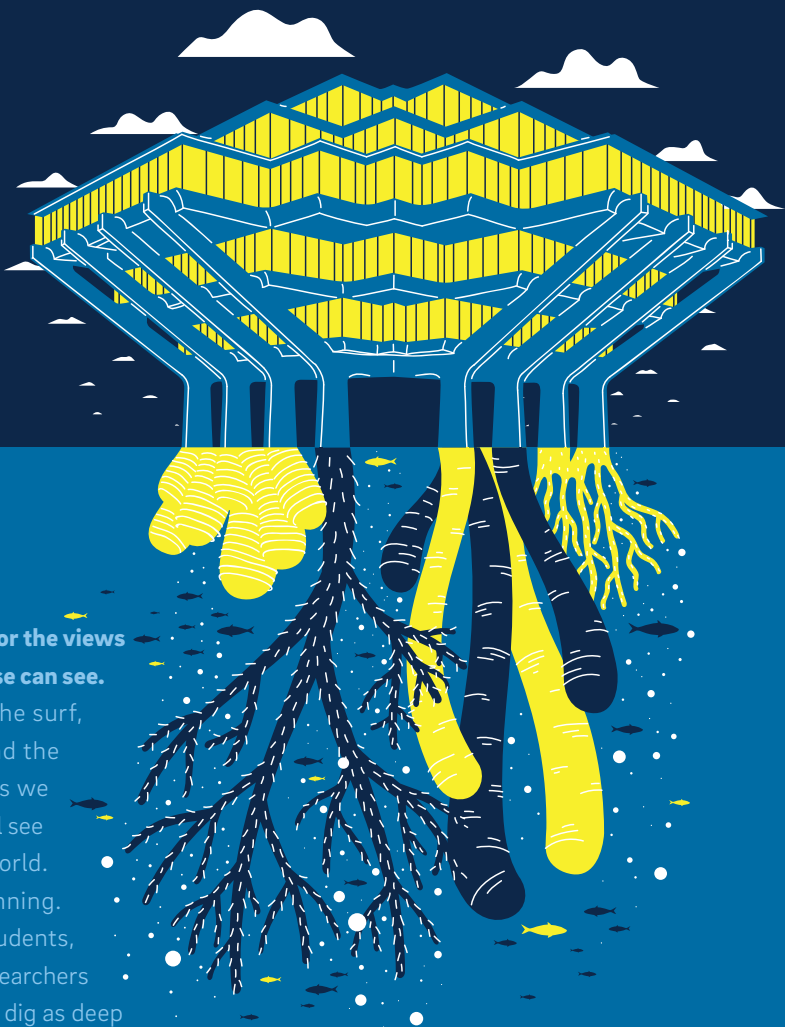
Clockwise from top left:
Herb & Wood, Nolita Hall, Carruth Wine Garden, Little Italy Food Hall, Mikkeller Brewing, Born & Raised

EVENTS THIS MONTH

Little Italy Mercato, Date Street between Kettner Boulevard and State Street, Wednesdays and Fridays

Chef-Driven Bake Sale, Herb & Eatery, March 31

LOOK DEEPER

An illustration of a building with a yellow and blue geometric, zigzag roof. The building is shown from a cross-section perspective, revealing its internal structure. Below the ground line, the building's 'roots' are depicted as a complex network of yellow and black lines, resembling coral or a root system, extending into a blue underwater environment. Small white bubbles and black fish are scattered throughout the water.

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lookdeeper.ucsd.edu

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PEOPLE + PLACES

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WHAT TO INSTAGRAM The view of the stadium once you've conquered the hill

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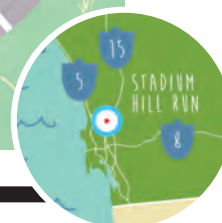
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FOR LIFE



CELEBRATING WOMEN

How She Does It

Kim Perell founded a marketing agency, served as CEO of a digital media brand, sold businesses, wrote a book, and became a multimillionaire by the time she was 30. Here, the Solana Beach mom talks about the importance of execution, how she bounced back from bankruptcy, and what she's doing to help the next generation of CEOs.

Erin Meanley Glenny: You released *The Execution Factor* last fall. Why write a book?

Kim Perell: I went from being broke, unemployed, bankrupt, and feeling devastated when my first company went under, to starting a company at my kitchen table [digital marketing agency Frontline Direct], to selling a company, to advising another company. The book really is about sharing that if I can do it, anyone can. It's important to remind everyone who's saying, "How am I going to get the next round of funding?" "How am I going to start a company?" that you can do it, but you have to execute.

EMG: You wrote that execution is about getting it done; it separates the dreamers from the doers.

KP: It's easy to dream, hard to *do*. You need a vision of the life you want, or a company you want to build. The book aims to give a blueprint of how to achieve that. Too many times our visions are so grandiose that you go into paralysis trying to obtain them, because you don't even know where to start. Start small. What's the one thing you can do today

to get closer to your goal? Those little things make a huge difference over time.

EMG: You list five traits that help with execution.

KP: I see people with really great visions that don't actually come to fruition. You need all of these traits in order to be successful: vision, passion, action, resilience, and relationships.

EMG: Beyond your ambition, one thing that stood out to me was your gift for spotting trends and recognizing opportunities.

KP: I'm good at pattern recognition. If you can recognize the patterns, you have a better chance at capitalizing on them. When I started my company, everyone said: "The internet is a fad. The internet is not going to work. That's a terrible idea. You're going to start a business on the internet?" I've seen firsthand the power of having that belief and not deviating when everyone else doubts you. Your belief has to be greater than everyone else's doubt. *Continued on page 38*

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- Joan Green of **Green Art Labs**: natural handbroom making

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PEOPLE + PLACES

Continued from page 36

EMG: Are you this confident in your personal life? As a mom, I'm always thinking, "Am I doing the right thing here?"

KP: Being a mom is hard, right? I have four-year-old twins, and they're insane—in a good way. I just do the best I can. They laugh because they ask, "Where are you going?" and I'm like, "I'm going to go change the world." So it's important to me to share that I love what I do. I grew up with entrepreneurial parents, and they're passionate and wanted to do that every day. Seeing that come from your parents is inspiring.

EMG: What mistake did you learn along your path to success?

KP: I wish I had known that you can't do it alone. After the bankruptcy, it was so hard letting my friends [whom I'd recruited] go. I just didn't want to be in that position. It took me a long time to rehire, and I was afraid. But looking back, no one wants to do it alone. It's fun to be part of a team. And as far as building that team, I don't want to be a team of champions, I want a champion team. Having individuals that play as great performers doesn't help; you need a high-performance team.

EMG: You've achieved all this success without an MBA. Do people need all those expensive degrees?

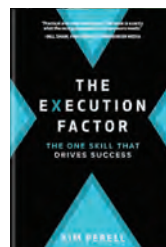
KP: I don't think it's a prerequisite for success. I don't think IQ or having money is, either. Everyone has different skills, but they need to have that vision, and execute.

EMG: Give us three books that changed your life.

KP: I love *Think and Grow Rich* by Napoleon Hill. It's an old book. It's brilliant. I love all Jack Welch, and I like Jim Collins's *Great by Choice*. If you aren't surrounded by a lot of great mentors, books are like teachers, right?

EMG: Your *The Execution Factor* Fund is all about providing mentoring via investment.

KP: I judge my success on how much I can impact the success of others. I started The Execution Factor Fund so I could give back to other entrepreneurs. My grandmother made a bet on me, and I want to make that bet on other people. So 100 percent of the royalties from the book go to funding entrepreneurs, plus the additional million dollars that I put into the fund. I want to invest in projects, but really, I invest in people whom I believe can execute.





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...and the daily roles we play. We answered whatever called us — whether it be bouncing on a trampoline, ascending Mt. Kuchumaa, or swaying in yoga silks. We returned home with a sense of what really matters.

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FOOD + DRINK



BIRRIA TACOS
AT EL JARDÍN

PUESTO'S SWEET
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SNACK

TROY JOHNSON
REVIEWS DIN
TAI FUNG

WELL FORTIFIED

The 7,000-pound grill dangled from the crane like an invading mothership above Fort Stockton Drive. The operator feared it might fall into the parking garage below and punch a hole in the earth. A structural engineer had to be consulted. Now safely in place, that obscene fire source is one of the reasons **FORT OAK** is a Mission Hills attraction. Chef Brad Wise and partner/GM Steven Schwob won over the city with Trust, in Hillcrest, thanks to their open-fire cooking and four-star service in less-stuffy settings. Sixteen of the seats overlook the open kitchen—are nearly inside the kitchen—for a chef's table experience. The menu is part seafood; with a raw bar, oyster bar, and dishes like hamachi poke and scallops aguachile; part "ancient cooking," with dishes like hearth-roasted carrots and lamb with quail eggs. Formerly a Ford dealership, what was once a circular showroom with Fairlanes is now a craft cocktail bar with Fernets. —TROY JOHNSON

FORT OAK 1011 Fort Stockton Drive, Mission Hills fortoaksd.com @fortoaksd

The Big Fish

The Land & Water Co. chef-owner Rob Ruiz has risen to become one of the country's top sustainable sushi chefs—with a James Beard Award and other accolades to prove it. Now he's bringing that ethos to Liberty Public Market, serving 100 percent local seafood at his fast-casual eatery, The Hold Fast.

by TROY JOHNSON

Rob Ruiz has a poke problem. The Hawaiian dish continues to trend, and the number of poke shops in San Diego is skyrocketing. That's troubling for Ruiz, who's now considered one of the most sustainable sushi chefs in America, if not the planet.

"Every single one of these poke bars is serving crap," he says. "They're serving a tuna product coming from overseas. Usually frozen and gassed with carbon monoxide. If they're getting it fresh, they're getting it from an untraceable source."

There's a better way to do it. A more sustainable way that supports what he calls "the most endangered species in San Diego—fishermen and women." Rather than talk about it, Ruiz is taking action with his latest, The Hold Fast, opening next month in Liberty Public Market. The fast-casual *temaki* (hand roll) bar uses only fish that were caught by San Diego fishing fleets.

"Every week, thirty thousand pounds of bigeye

tuna is offloaded less than three blocks away from The Hold Fast. The US imports 96 percent of its seafood. But we don't have to. I go to the beach every morning and make food from what I find—seaweed and aquaculture-raised oysters, sea urchins, spot prawns, yellowtail, mackerels, sardines, aji, stone crabs."

Ruiz is used to the naysaying. When he was part of the team at Harney Sushi who put an edible QR code on their fish years ago, people scoffed. The idea was, customers could scan the code and know exactly where the fish had swum, where it was caught, how it was processed. They laughed it off as gimmicky.

When he opened The Land & Water Co. in

Carlsbad with the promise of hyper-sustainable sushi, customers wanted bluefin and salmon and wouldn't pay for less-sexy sustainable alternatives. But when the Blue Marine Foundation flew him to London to accept an Ocean Award next to Pharrell Williams (who was getting an award for turning discarded fishing nets into clothing), the laughter stopped.

Then when sushi fans started lining up at the door to Land & Water on weekend nights, only a few doubters remained. He became recognized as one of the most

sustainable sushi chefs in the US, with a direct line to the world's foremost sustainable seafood organizations like Scripps Institution of Oceanography, NOAA, and Monterey Bay Aquarium. Most recently he became the first San Diego chef and restaurateur to join the James Beard Foundation's Smart Catch club for chefs with strict sustainable seafood practices.

To reach this level of sustainability, Ruiz and his staff at Land & Water work to the bone. They arrive four hours earlier than most kitchen staffs. They peel the daikons by hand, compost the skins in four bins out back, then pickle the cores and compost the seeds. They buy Del Pacifico shrimp (fished from ultra-sustainable



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FOOD + DRINK

boats called *pangas*) and peel them by hand. The shrimp goes into the sushi rolls. The shells get roasted and go into stock. Then they compost the leftovers of the stock.

"I could charge triple what I'm charging, but this opportunity is a gift. I have customers with cancer or celiac who've become my regulars because they're relying on food to heal themselves. I have to respect the clients and the food. We finally learned how to do it and make a profit."

Ruiz estimates that poke restaurants around town are getting fish at \$16–\$22 a pound. But he says he can buy a whole tuna for *four dollars a pound* down at Tuna Harbor Dockside Market. (Held every Saturday in San Diego, the market is where local fishermen offload and sell their fresh catch.) Most chefs don't know how to butcher a whole fish, though.

Ruiz credits his discipline of using the whole fish to his time in Japan. He was granted full access to the world-famous Tsukiji fish market in Tokyo, apprenticing under a buyer who'd been there for 20 years, learning how to grade, sort, and buy the fish. More importantly, he saw how deeply they honor the fish and the craft of being an *itamae* (sushi chef).

"We've made sushi into a lavish art form in the US, but it became an art form because 300 years ago in Japan people couldn't afford to eat high-quality food. So they learned to make one small, perfect bite. Someone could save up \$7 for that bite. It was all about not wasting anything."



That's what Ruiz will be working on at The Hold Fast—perfect bites of food in the form of hand rolls. He'll split his time between Land & Water and Hold Fast, and customers can reserve *omakase* meals where he'll create tastings from the day's local catch. His sustainability efforts have gone beyond seafood now, too.

Land & Water and Hold Fast will get all of their produce from two local farms. They'll compost what they don't use and return the compost to the farms, which will be used to grow them more food. He's closing the cycle, and is hopeful more restaurants will start doing the same.

"When we buy from them it's fresher and in season, caught responsibly, under the strictest guidelines in the world. We're supporting San Diego families and communities. And we need to dispel the myth that it's more expensive and too much work."

"We all talk about wanting James Beard and Michelin stars in San Diego. But to do that, we have to do it right. I'm gonna go out there and lead by example." ■

➤ **LISTEN UP!** Hear more from Rob Ruiz on our weekly food and drink podcast, *Happy Half Hour*: sdmag.com/holdfast



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VERY IMPORTANT TACO

BIRRIA TACO

AT EL JARDÍN

When she opened El Jardín in August as both executive chef and partner, Claudette Zepeda-Wilkins had a clear goal: Bring Mexico's oldest, most treasured recipes to a San Diego audience. There's mole from Puebla, Cotija cheese from Michoacán, and a goat birria from its birthplace of Jalisco. The latter serves as the base for her unique spin on a birria taco. After marinating and smoking a whole goat, she wraps it in maguey leaves (aka agave) and other aromatics, then slow-roasts it until the meat is tender enough to fall off the bone. The assembly is slightly different from your average taco. Zepeda-Wilkins stuffs a tortilla with just the meat, brushing the outside with rendered fat from her housemade birria broth. The whole taco is roasted, grilled, and served alongside the strained broth containing olla beans, minced onions, cilantro, and lime, which is meant for dunking the taco into. For added heat, look to El Jardín's salsa trio: molcajete with jalapeños (mild), tomatillo cruda with serranos (medium), and macha with dried chiles (hot). To hear more from Zepeda-Wilkins on El Jardín and her efforts to push for authentic Mexican eats, listen to *San Diego Magazine's Happy Half Hour* podcast at sdmag.com/eljardin.

—KAI OLIVER-KURTIN

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hot plates

OPENINGS
+ RUMORS

LISTEN UP!

For more Hot Plates, chef interviews, and food news, tune in to our weekly podcast, *Happy Half Hour*: sdmag.com/hhh



1

After success in La Mesa and Bay Park, **Farmer's Table** is the latest tenant in Little Italy's Piazza della Famiglia.

2

Look for Morocco-meets-Baja flavors at the new **Medina** in North Park, serving housemade merguez, flatbread tacos, and more.

3

Sister Ray's has opened in Sherman Heights, a collaboration between The Balboa Bar & Grill and Luigi's Pizzeria with a menu of chili dogs and burgers.

4

This month, El Cajon's Sycuan Casino Resort is unveiling **The UnCommons**, a marketplace with Hodad's, Lucha Libre, Luna Grill, Phil's BBQ, and The Hangry Slice.

5

The upscale, LA-based Mexican restaurant **Javier's** has debuted at Westfield UTC.

6

Whisknadle owner Arturo Kassel and AleSmith cofounder Skip Virgilio have opened a new gourmet brewpub, **Gravity Heights**, in Sorrento Valley.

7

Grand Ole BBQ now has an East County location, in Flinn Springs with smoked meats and live music.

8

Slated to open this month, popular Encinitas vegan eatery **Eve** is bringing its next outpost to Oceanside.

9

Pizzas with white, whole grain, and cauliflower crusts are on the menu alongside salads, smoothies, and kombucha at the new **Powerhaus** in Pacific Beach.

10

Metallica (yes, *that* Metallica) has teamed up with **Stone Brewing** spin-off Arrogant Consortia on their own beer, dubbed Enter Night Pilsner.

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FOOD + DRINK



SWEET SPOT

Street Smarts

Puesto is built on the idea of elevated Mexican street food. So it makes sense that when it came time to overhaul the dessert menu, new executive pastry chef Erik Aronow pulled from his own recent experiences with the restaurant's founding executive chef in Mexico City. "Chef Luisteen introduced me to a common street snack called *tostilocos*, which is any variation of chips, candies, nuts, and fruit all dressed with hot sauce, chamoy, or Maggi Jugo. It hit all my favorite notes—sweet, salty, spicy." Aronow turned that memorable meal into the **CHOCOLATE MANGO CRÉMEUX**, a sweet and sour mango-Jamaica cream hidden under a dark chocolate shell and surrounded by crunchy, salty pepitas. It's finished with a spicy mango chamoy coulis. "The playfulness comes from the interactive component," he says. "Guests get to crack open the chocolate dome to reveal the creamy mango interior." —ARCHANA RAM

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Bao Down



World-renowned Din Tai Fung excels at everything except what they're famous for

by **TROY JOHNSON** photography by **DEWEY KETHLY**

NOT SURE IF WHAT THEY'RE METICULOUSLY FIDDLING WITH IS A

dumpling or a radioactive molecule. In the waiting lobby of Din Tai Fung, six of the cooks are on display behind pane glass, like expensive jewelry or zoo bears. Guests huddle around the enclosure, hungry and ogling and furiously snapping for the Insta. In white coats, white hairnets, white ball caps, and white surgical masks, the cooks pull, snip, measure, weigh, flatten, fill, and pleat their legendary little food. A man stretches a denture-white string of dough, snips off a section onto the digital scale. It looks like gnocchi and weighs exactly—well, something specific, a weight codified at Din Tai Fung (DTF) headquarters in Taipei as the perfect weight for a Shanghai-style soup dumpling, or xiao long bao (XLB).

A cook grabs each nub, flattens it with a thin wooden roller, then flips the doughy disc acrobatically, Harlem Globetrotters-style, to another cook at the immaculate dough table. That cook weighs out a mix of minced, seasoned pork and room-temp cubes of soup and places it in the center of the disc. Each XLB gets 21 grams of filling (within a 0.4 gram margin of error), as mandated by DTF HQ. Finally, a cook pulls the edges of the dumpling up in a series of 18 pleats—always 18, because perfection, and also because saying “one” and “eight” in Mandarin sounds like “to get rich.”

The finished dumplings, looking like an ornate meringue or swirled dollop of vanilla soft-serve,

are placed in a bamboo vessel, and steamed at an exact temperature for an exact amount of time. This is how you do XLB when you have over 130 locations worldwide, reportedly selling over 10 million dumplings a day. That number is downright McDonaldsian.

At your table, a server lifts the top of the bamboo vessel and steam rises to reveal six piping-hot XLB. Rock stars in the '80s made similar entrances. You grab chopsticks, lift a dumpling from its basket, and gently place it in a soup spoon. Eat it right away, and the only condiment you'll need is bacitracin to salve the scorched ruins of your mouth. Pierce the top with your chopsticks, or bite off the top, to release the steam and let it cool. The spoon will catch any of the sacred soup that might escape. Slurp a little, drizzle it with black vinegar (the classic XLB accompaniment, an aged vinegar made with charred rice, like a less-sweet balsamic), and pop it down.

The dumpling has a slippery-silk texture so sensual it's nearly indecent. The soup is that warm broth that grandmas claim cures everything, from the common cold to prolonged unmarriedness. The pork is a loosely formed meatball, a porcine nugget of real sustenance.

That's the XLB experience. And DTF has ridden these petite Shanghai specialties to global success. Founder Yang Bingyi was born in Shanghai, but during the Chinese Civil War fled to Taipei, Taiwan, opening a cooking oil shop in 1958. He served xiao



BEST DISHES

BRAISED BEEF SOUP
GREEN BEANS
SPICY KUROBUTA
PORK AND SHRIMP
DUMPLINGS





Clockwise from top left: Cooks shaping dumplings; spicy kurobuta pork and shrimp dumplings; braised beef noodle soup

long bao, but just as a sideshow. Fortuitously, his gourmet oil business took a nosedive when stores started selling it in cans. So in 1972, Yang ditched oils and made xiao long bao the sole focus of Din Tai Fung. He enjoyed good success until 1993, when the *New York Times* named it one of the top 10 restaurants in the world.

An NYT nod like that, especially in the '90s, was rocket fuel. Yang capitalized on the exposure, expanding to Japan and China. In 2009, the DTF outpost in Hong Kong was awarded one Michelin star (the first Taiwanese restaurant to receive the honor). Michelin stars may not have the cosmic thrust they once did, but it's rare for the tire company to constellate a chain restaurant. A case study of DTF's business success is taught at Harvard.

So, obviously, there's something special about DTF. And after two marathon meals at their new, 10,000-square-foot location at Westfield UTC, I can attest to something special. It's just not the xiao long bao.

I'd spent the week prior scouring the city for the best XLB. DTF's were my third, maybe fourth favorite. They're fine, fine. Their dough was far superior, membrane thin but sturdy enough to contain the soup without breaking. It didn't taste of flour, either, which happens to lesser XLB that are undercooked.

The problem with DTF's soup dumplings is that tradition is both the buoy and the anchor. The trick is retaining the part that keeps you afloat (that dough), and ditching the part that holds you down (DTF's broth). Traditionally, XLB have a pretty simple, light broth, with hints of pork, chives, and ginger. But we're living in the golden age of broths, where chefs are roasting bones, blooming spices and seeds, reducing the liquid to its most intense, primal essence. What for centuries was a faint soup is now a deeply flavorful, soul-restorative meal. DTF's broth is far too shy in this brave new modern broth world.

There's also simply not enough of it. Each had a scant thimble. The name "soup dumplings" requires more soup.

It's a shame, because DTF isn't afraid to ghost tradition in the name of flavor. They sell an XLB with black truffle, which gives purists all sorts of fits. Problem is that truffles, for all their saintly food musk, are like ketchup—they overpower every other flavor. They bully nuance. Since DTF is already eschewing tradition ... instead of truffles, I'd love to see DTF experiment with a more flavorful, remarkable broth.

What is remarkable about DTF is nearly everything else. *Everything*. The cleanliness. The knowledge and friendliness and intuition of the staff. The green beans. The fried rice. The spicy sesame noodles. The braised beef noodle soup. The red bean dessert bao buns. *Everything*.

Navigating a Din Tai Fung experience is dizzying. They don't really do reservations, just a limited few a night, reserved far in advance. So it's primarily walk-up. The restaurant opens at 5 p.m. The line starts at 4:45, and quickly colonizes the surrounding mall walkways. The usual wait time is 45 minutes to an hour for a table. Din Tai Fung is bigger than Bieber.

For a project of its size and repute, Din Tai Fung UTC has one of the most unassuming dining rooms I've ever seen. And by that I mean it's not pretty. It's a huge, immaculately clean mess hall, or college dorm cafeteria minus the hangover smell. This DTF was not designed for romance, it was designed to move some serious soup dumplings. Something about it reminds me of Ikea and it's definitely the lights—set to a sort of weaponized fluorescence that turns every skin tone in the room the color of Anderson Cooper's hair. It's dinner as interrogation. But I think I know

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why they do this. Without searchlights, they couldn't clean every table to within an inch of its life. DTF is the cleanest restaurant in the world. Bussers clear dishes with the monomaniacal efficiency of an Indy 500 pit crew. A busser sprays an even stream of cleaning solution from one corner to the next, forming a giant "X." He covers his stream with a towel so that no nearby diner suffers a misting. Then he just exfoliates the thing. Not sure how you could get the table cleaner except maybe set it on fire. Quality-control checkers roam the room, making sure you could safely perform surgery on their tables. Their meticulousness is shocking, and wildly reassuring.

There are spies who aren't as well trained as these employees. DTF reportedly spends over 50 percent of its revenue on training, pay, and benefits, and they rank among the top in the industry. Before they open for business, I spot them performing a team chant. Like they're the Lakers, and every night is the big game. It's a little cultish and, in an American society that often shrugs and sighs at hard work, inspiring.

Our servers explain each dish in detail and tell you how to eat them. ("That's got two kinds of crab, which is often a little too crabby for some diners. And we suggest eating these without sauce.") They seem to have cracked the space-time continuum, too, since dishes arrive seconds after you order them, yet don't taste like they've been sitting under heat lamps, coagulating. A smart move may be to "slow order"—order, eat food, order more food, etc.—because otherwise it all lands on the table at once.

Order those magic green beans, which are dry-fried Sichuan style, wrinkling the exterior with fry flavor but leaving the interior popping with vine-fresh beans, then garnished with Taiwanese pickles, minced garlic, and sea salt. And the fried rice (we ordered brown because we enjoy nutrients), perfectly fluffed and not overly oiled, spackled with both white and yellow bits of egg, and green onions. The noodles with sesame sauce are nutty and spicy and life affirming. The broth in the braised beef noodle soup is so intensely flavorful you wonder why they don't use it in the xiao long bao. The sauce on the shrimp and kurobuta pork wontons is spicy and deep (with a zing from, I believe, black vinegar), so good it could be the olive branch between wildly different cultures. Be sure to use their soy sauce with abandon—they brew their own, and it's a revelation. There's a blood orange martini with boba (large, black tapioca balls, famous from Taiwan-style tea), plus a lychee martini and mediocre wine by the glass.

Yes, I wish they would dim the lights. Restaurants often have lights blazed like this to encourage diners to eat and move on. And if asked where to find the best xiao long bao in San Diego, I would not send them to a mall to wait an hour for DTF's. But because of the service, the cleanliness, the efficiency, the great sampling of Taiwanese and Chinese food, the spot-on flavors of almost every dish except the XLB—I understand why this is regarded as one of the most starkly impressive restaurants on the planet. ■



Top to bottom: A spread of dumplings, soup, noodles, and fried rice; spicy sesame noodles; the dining room inside Din Tai Fung



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Caroline Constat's "Syros Silk Dress," \$1,095, Giuseppe Zanotti "Lavinia Platform Sandal," \$795, Nordstrom Fashion Valley; "Delphine" earrings, \$70, Double Happiness, doublehappinessjewelry.com

PLAYING WITH FIRE

Monse "Asymmetrical Mixed Media Midi Dress," \$1,990, Nordstrom Fashion Valley; "Leather Snap Belt Bag," \$78, Aritzia Westfield UTC; Quay "Finders Keepers Anything Goes Square Sunglasses," \$60, Bloomingdale's Fashion Valley; "Taner XL Hoops," \$70, Gorjana Westfield UTC









ABOUT THAT BAG

(OPPOSITE PAGE) Mila leather jacket, \$598, BCBG Fashion Valley; "Arjun Knit Top," \$58, Aritzia Westfield UTC; Balenciaga "Triangle XS Calfskin Duffel Bag," \$1,790, Neiman Marcus Fashion Valley; Chloé "Rosie Scalloped Sunglasses," \$420, Nordstrom Fashion Valley; "Glittery Pants," \$55, H&M Westfield UTC (THIS PAGE) Halogen "Satin Blazer," \$50, Nordstrom Fashion Valley; Alice + Olivia "Bo Pull Up Pant," \$295, Marc Jacobs "Snapshot Leather Camera Bag," \$295, Bloomingdale's Fashion Valley; "Olivia" choker necklace, \$148, "Olivia Chloé" choker necklace, \$168, Labradoraite ring, \$648, Love Tatum, lovetatum.com; chain gold rings, model's own design, @enlytammela



VALLEY GIRL

Leith "High Waist Belted Pants," \$59, A.L.C. "Melanie Plunging Merino Wool Sweater," \$345, Gucci "Sylvie Loafer Pump," \$890, Nordstrom Fashion Valley; "Versailles" necklace, \$188, Love Tatum, lovetatum.com









DRIFT THIS WAY

Rosetta Getty "Apron Wrap Crepe Back Satin Shirtdress," \$1,190, Nordstrom Fashion Valley; "Interlocking Triangle Drop Earrings," \$75, Gorjana Westfield UTC

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Kaua'i

TUBE TIME

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O'ahu

PLANT A TREE



Take part in a major reforestation effort while enjoying spectacular North Shore scenery and outdoor adventure with **Hawaiian Legacy Tours at Gunstock Ranch**. Planting a tree is a special way to honor a family member or loved one while giving back to the local community. You'll select, plant, and dedicate your own Legacy Tree in the O'ahu Legacy Forest. Once home, track the location and growth of your tree via radio frequency identification. A photo of you and your family planting your tree will be permanently linked to your tree online. Tree planting tours include the Planter's Experience, the Horseback Planter's Experience, the Off-Road Planter's Experience, and the Helicopter Experience.

SURF'S UP

Learn to surf on the North Shore away from the Waikīkī crowds with former lifeguard and expert surfer Suzy Stewart of **Sunset Suzy**. The two-hour group lessons are perfect for families. You'll start

on the beach with 15 to 20 minutes of instruction dedicated to safety and surf techniques, then spend the rest of the lesson in the water. Suzy always provides several instructors for families, plus individual instructors for very young children. Though the North Shore surf is rough in winter, Suzy knows the special places with calm waves—such as Pua'ena Point, where families will also enjoy encountering Hawaiian sea turtles.

Maui

GENTLE GIANTS REVEALED

Opening in the midst of prime whale-watching season (December–May), **Maui Ocean Center's** exciting new exhibit *Humpbacks of Hawai'i* enables visitors to experience the mystery and majesty of earth's largest mammals like never before. The exhibit breaks the barrier of the ocean and brings museum guests eye to eye with humpback whales beneath the waves. Visitors will experience the whales' nomadic lifestyle and immerse themselves in their songs, signals, and social bonds through interactive exhibits, displays, and a virtual whale encounter in the 3D Sphere.

BENEATH THE WAVES

Experience two of Maui's most memorable underwater dive sites on the Discover Molokini sailing and snorkeling adventure aboard



Trilogy's comfortable and spacious catamaran. After departing Mā'alaea Harbor, you'll first visit Molokini, a sunken volcanic crater 2.5 miles off the Maui coastline that's home to tropical fish, coral reefs, and nesting seabirds. Next, you'll snorkel in the shallows of the Maui coastline, where you're likely to experience local Hawaiian sea turtles. A delicious lunch is served, and shallow-water-diving "Snuba" upgrades are available.

FUN FACT

The waters of Molokini are home to more than 250 species of marine wildlife.





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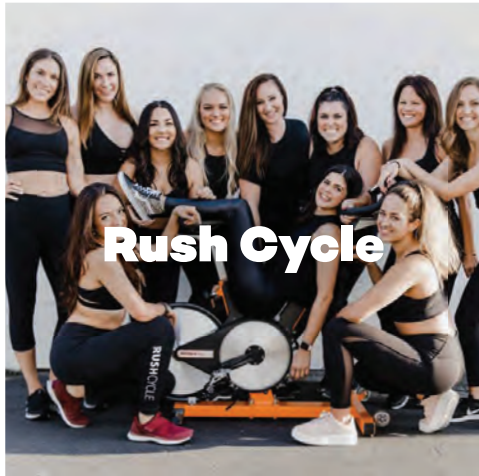


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THEATRE
San Diego's Gaslamp Quarter



Road

by Archana Ram
with Dan Letchworth
and Sarah Pfledderer

photography by
Emily Kaszton
and Jim David

Trips

It's time to ditch the hassles of airplanes and layovers and enjoy the open road. We've curated 21 getaways through California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and Mexico, whether you want to drive for two hours or eight. And remember, it's just as much about the journey (ahem, foodie pit stops) as it is the destination. Buckle up!

12

HOURS

PALM SPRINGS
VALLE DE GUADALUPE
LAGUNA BEACH
LOS ANGELES

Palm Springs

WHY WE LOVE IT

The desert is a bright spot with cool options for a no-children getaway

We love kids, but sometimes we want to enjoy our mimosas and pool time in peace. Thankfully, Coachella Valley has new destinations for travelers without tots. Open since October, the adults-only **Villa Royale** is a Mission Revival-style property with 38 rooms and pet-friendly amenities (dog beds, bowls, treats). Or try **Sparrows Lodge**, a 21-and-over boutique hotel with a hip country-cool vibe and elegant outdoor dinners every Wednesday and Saturday. In town, get to **Rooster and the Pig** when it opens at 5 p.m.—the no-reservations, dinner-only pan-Asian restaurant is a hot ticket in town for those in the know, and the wait is worth it for crispy beef noodles and black pepper tofu. If you want to get away from the hustle and bustle, there's no prettier stay than **Sands Hotel & Spa** (for guests 18 and over) in Indian Wells, site of this month's **BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament**. The Moroccan-inspired hotel is decked out in blush tones, ornate tile work, a three-room spa, and the **Pink Cabana** restaurant, a print-happy nod to retro tennis and racquet clubs. And even if you go to the scene-y **Parker Palm Springs**, don't miss the somewhat secret **Counter Reformation**, a monastery-chic indoor wine bar tucked into their back garden.

Valle de Guadalupe

WHY WE LOVE IT

There's a new crop of resorts and restaurants in Mexico's wine country

Maybe you've been to Finca Altozano, Laja, and Deckman's, and you've already stayed at La Villa del Valle and Encuentro. So let us introduce you to el Valle's impressive freshman recruits. The **Villas at El Cielo Winery Resort** debuted in November with 95 suites and 33 villas, two restaurants, and a café adjacent to the five-year-old winery, all spanning 79 acres. In August, **Hotel Partana** opened its six-room steel-and-wood-heavy property on the same site as Finca (chef Javier Plascencia's alfresco ode to wood-fire cooking), **Lupe**

(his food truck serving tortas and ice cream), **Animalón** (his pop-up dinner series hosted beneath a 200-year-old oak tree), and **Das Cortez** (a trendy coffee kiosk). This summer, look for glamping staple **CuatroCuatros** in nearby Ensenada to open new cabins, plus a spa and Japanese restaurant. And in the fall, the **Valle Food & Wine Festival**—which last year drew major chefs like Nancy Silverton and Dominique Crenn—is rumored to be returning for food, music, and oenophilic pleasures.

Pit Stop!

Just across the border in Tijuana, take in cocktails and food from the famed Tacos Kokopelli at the new Cereus Bar, located in the trendy live-work space Estación Federal.





Scan this code in your Spotify app for *San Diego Magazine's* reader-curated road trip playlist!

2



4

Laguna Beach

WHY WE LOVE IT

A new hotel is breathing fresh air into the quirky beach town

We've always appreciated the pristine beaches, electric sunsets, and funky art scene in Laguna Beach, but thanks to the somewhat uninspiring hotel scene, it's usually a day trip rather

than a multi-day excursion. That's changed with **Hotel Joaquin**, a 22-room boutique property on the beach from the same team behind Korakia Pensione in Palm Springs. It's understated sexy, best suited for adults and friend groups. Breakfast and gear like bodyboards and surfboards are free, and it's a quick two-minute walk to the beach. Around town, **Trap Door Dining** hosts seasonal pop-up dinners for 15–20 guests led by chef Kenny Seliger, who previously worked in the kitchen at Montage Laguna Beach. His next dinner takes place March 23 at Newport Beach's **Kit Coffee** with a four-course meal of whipped burrata, spring peas with pork belly, and a vanilla shortcake with blueberry jelly.

3



1. Sands Hotel & Spa, Indian Wells
2. Vineyards at El Cielo Winery Resort, Valle de Guadalupe
3. Villas at El Cielo

4. The bar at Hotel Joaquin, Laguna Beach
5. Hotel Joaquin guest room

5



1. Pacific Surfliner train
2. Rosy Oyster bar at Hotel Roosevelt, Los Angeles
3. Hotel Roosevelt

Los Angeles

WHY WE LOVE IT

City of Angels?
Try City of Creatives.

Don't let proximity stop you from enjoying LA's current renaissance. Finally there's a chic place to rest your head on the east side: The upcoming **Silver Lake Pool & Inn**, due next month, has a vintage California feel—wood facades, open layouts, greenery, and natural light aplenty. Farther west, Culver City is now a destination in its own right thanks to the vibrant, two-month-old **Palihotel Culver City**, with 49 rooms outfitted in modern decor and art deco touches. They say nobody walks in LA, but from the Palihotel it's no more than 20 minutes to **BäcoShop** for Middle Eastern eats, **Destroyer** for Scandinavian-style plates, and **Arcana** for coffee table books on fashion and photography. Elsewhere in the city, clock in at least one meal at **Fiona**, the new all-day eatery near Melrose serving Asian-inspired dishes as well as can't-miss desserts—owners Shawn Pham and Nicole Rucker previously worked at the Southeast Asian spot Simbal and carb temple Gjelina, respectively. Looking for a more classic stay? **The Hollywood Roosevelt**, site of the first Academy Awards 90 years ago, is a posh boutique option with **The Spare Room**, a hybrid cocktail bar and bowling alley within the hotel.



LEAVE THE CAR AT HOME!

Board the Pacific Surfliner train from downtown, Solana Beach, or Oceanside and get to LA in under 2.5 hours. You can use The Freehand as a home base—the 13-story downtown hotel has apartment-style lofts, traditional rooms, and coed or female-only shared accommodations with bunk beds, less than two miles from Union Station. And don't miss yoga on their colorful rooftop.



3-4

HOURS

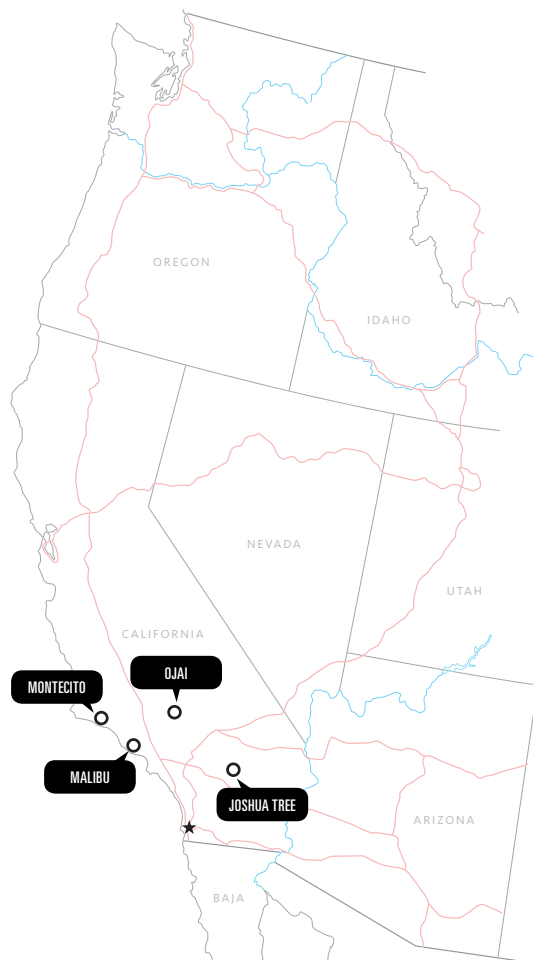
MALIBU
MONTECITO
JOSHUA TREE
OJAI

Malibu

WHY WE LOVE IT

Post-wildfires, the 'bu needs your support

Last fall's deadly fires wreaked havoc on the tony coastal enclave, obliterating at least 670 structures. Now it's time to pour some money back into the community. **The Surfrider Malibu** (top) combines classic SoCal beach culture with high-end details. Beachfront rooms are decked in whites and blond woods, fitted with rain showers and outdoor terraces, and in the suites, hammocks. If you can pull yourself away from the property, the front desk can arrange "surf safaris" and hiking trips. It's a similarly serene vibe at **Nobu Ryokan**. With only 16 rooms, the Japanese-style inn embraces its East Asian influences with teak soaking tubs, linen *yukata* robes, and tatami mats. Plus, it's just a short walk to **Nobu Malibu** for their famous sushi, sashimi, and Japanese fusion dishes. To take in that fresh sea air, lace up for a hike to **Mugu Peak**, a five-mile trek past meadows and mountains that leads to a panoramic ocean view.





1

WHY WE LOVE IT

The SoCal town specializes in next-level luxury

In the high-end beach community of Montecito, which counts Oprah among its residents, the weeks-old **Rosewood Miramar Beach** promises luxury and seclusion from the wineries, restaurants, and State Street hubbub in Santa Barbara just five miles away. The resort feels more like an estate, with 161 rooms over 16 acres, plus five restaurants, a yacht-inspired beach bar, the farm-to-table eatery **Malibu Farm**, two pools, a James Perse store, and a Goop boutique, selling Gwyneth Paltrow-approved skin care, clothing, and gifts. Want to really splash out? Book one of the eight seats in the restaurant-within-a-restaurant **The Silver Bough** at the **Montecito Inn**. For \$550 per person (tax and gratuity included, phew!), each diner is treated to an 18-course meal with pairings—anything from bone-marrow-stuffed potato to dishes made with locally caught box crab—available Thursday through Sunday by reservation only (they'll accommodate vegan and pescatarian menus upon request). For a little more energy and walkability, head west to Santa Barbara for gourmet versions of Thai and Vietnamese street food at the new **Tyger Tyger** in the **Funk Zone**, a neighborhood of warehouses turned wineries and restaurants.

LEAVE THE CAR AT HOME!

It's about five hours via the Pacific Surfliner to Santa Barbara, with an ocean view most of the way. The station is conveniently located less than a mile from the Funk Zone, for wineries and restaurants and the Mediterranean-inspired Hotel California.



2

FIND THE EPONYMOUS TREES IN THE NORTHWESTERN SECTION OF JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK



3

Ojai

WHY WE LOVE IT

One tiny town packs a ton of eclectic festivals

Beyond its hippie ethos, famous “pink moment” sunsets, and the luxurious **Ojai Valley Inn & Resort**, the tiny town of Ojai (population 7,400) is also a hub for nearly a dozen annual festivals. Things kick off over Memorial Day Weekend with **Art in the Park**, a two-day celebration where nearly 100 fine artists sell their work in a show hosted by California’s oldest art nonprofit. On June 6, the 73rd annual **Ojai Music Festival** returns with four days of classical music at the Libbey Bowl amphitheater. This year’s event pays tribute to composers with ties to Ojai, including Igor Stravinsky. June 9 brings the **Wine Festival**, when more than 60 wineries and 30 breweries pour into town. Want to enjoy Ojai Valley’s bounty? The **Lavender Festival** on June 29 has local farmers selling soaps, oils, and decor made from the versatile flower. And due in August and October, respectively, the **Playwrights Conference** gives audiences a seat to workshop performances from new writers, while the **Storytelling Festival** brings together storytellers from across the country to perform personal narratives, ghost stories, folktales, and more. When you need some mid-festival fuel, be sure to visit the recently reopened cafe **Hip Vegan** for wholesome salads, sandwiches, smoothies, and desserts.



NO ROOM? NO PROBLEM.
ACCESS TWO POOLS,
THE GYM, AND LOCKER
AMENITIES WITH OJAI
VALLEY INN & RESORT'S
\$75 DAY PASS (AGES 16
AND UP).

1. Rosewood Miramar Beach, Montecito
2. The Silver Bough, Montecito
3. Joshua Tree National Park
4. Shop on the Mesa, Joshua Tree
5. Ojai Valley Inn & Resort
6. Ojai's "pink moment"

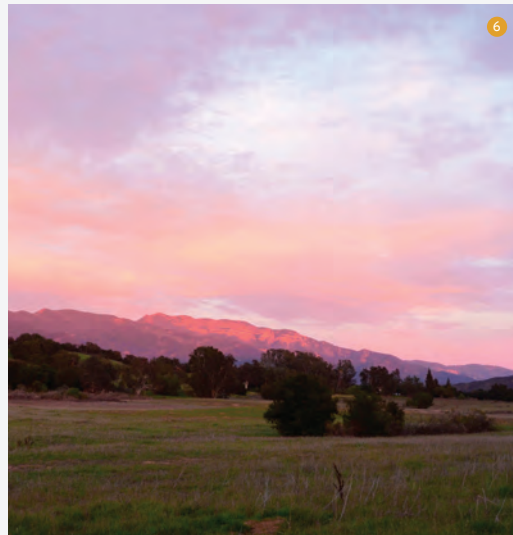


Joshua Tree

WHY WE LOVE IT

Geek out beneath the night sky

Designated an International Dark Sky Park two years ago, **Joshua Tree National Park** is celebrating its fifth annual **Night Sky Festival** on September 21, pegged to the fall equinox. Tickets go on sale this summer for the event, which will have 20 telescopes, astronomy lectures, photo booths, music, nature walks, and crafts for kids. (The park website has some recommended night-sky etiquette, like using red flashlights instead of white.) When you're not hiking, rock climbing, or observing the stars, check out the year-old boutique **Shop on the Mesa**, stocked with desert-



chic decor, including many locally made pieces. And while options for food in town are limited to vegan eats at **Natural Sisters Cafe** and **Pie for the People!** pizza, make time for **La Copine**, a surprisingly polished restaurant in nearby Flamingo Heights started by a Philadelphia couple who honeymooned in Joshua Tree and fell in love with it, then took over an old diner. The menu has high-end fare like grilled flatbread with whipped ricotta and a lamb burger topped with harissa—a far cry from those campfire hot dogs. For more on the national parks, turn to page 89.

5-6

HOURS

DEATH VALLEY
TUCSON
EASTERN SIERRA
LAS VEGAS



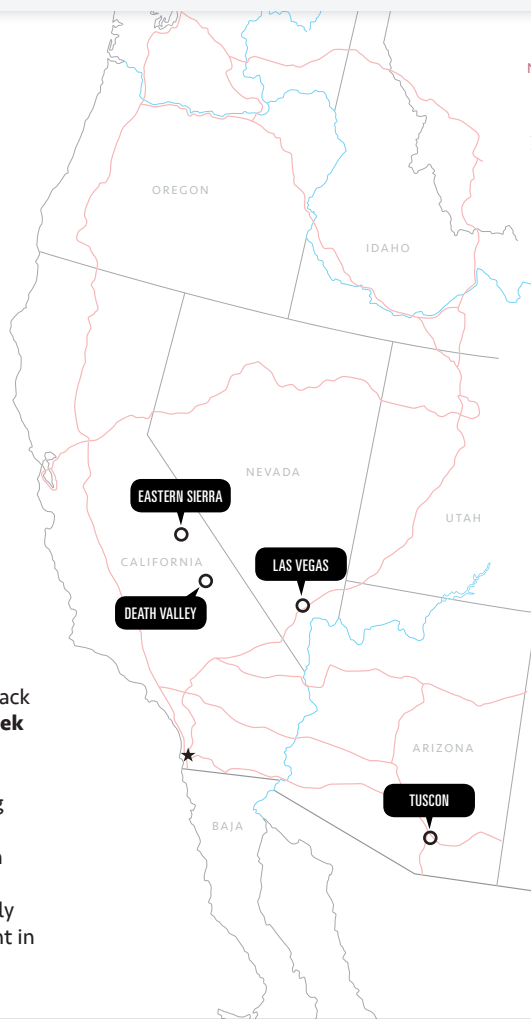
Death Valley

WHY WE LOVE IT

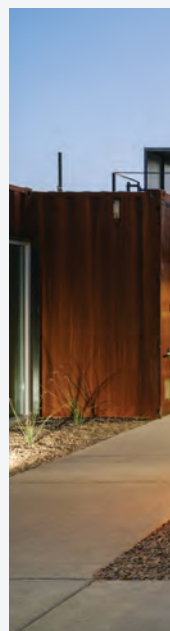
Views that are so out-of-this-world, they've stood in for Star Wars planets

It may be the “hottest, driest, lowest national park,” but you’ll forget that when you’re splashing around the spring-fed pool at the revamped **Oasis at Death Valley** (formerly Furnace Creek Resort), the 92-year-old resort composed of **Inn at Death Valley** (66 rooms plus 22 casitas) and **Ranch at Death Valley** (geared toward families, with 224 rooms). The property just unveiled a \$100 million makeover that includes refreshed rooms, a spa, and a new restaurant and cocktail lounge,

all surrounded by date palms and sweeping mountain views. You can book sunset and moonlight horseback riding excursions with **Furnace Creek Stables** or tee off at **The Furnace Creek Golf Course**. Within **Death Valley National Park**, see shooting locations from *A New Hope* and *Return of the Jedi* at Golden Canyon and Dante’s View terrace, or visit **Badwater Basin** to see otherworldly salt flats located at the lowest point in North America.



1. Saguaro National Park, Tucson
2. Oasis at Death Valley
3. MSA Annex shops, Tucson
4. Alabama Hills
5. Mono Lake



Tucson

WHY WE LOVE IT

The college town has grown up

Dated strip malls, fraternity life, and sugary margaritas no more—the affluent, history-rich hometown of the University of Arizona has recently gotten a fresh perspective thanks to an influx of young creatives. Shop for minimalist apparel and accessories at the **MSA Annex** (a collection of 13 shops housed in shipping containers), dine on Central Mexican cuisine at **Penca Restaurante** downtown, and grab a light meal at **Exo Roast Co.**, which uses local ingredients like barrel cactus jam and the cult favorite Barrio Bread. The award for most unique nightcap goes to **The Owl's Club**, a hip, intimate cocktail bar located in a former funeral home. Amid all the new and cool, there are still the staples worth visiting, like **Saguaro National Park**, home to 25 varieties of cacti, including

the namesake, which ranks as the tallest in the country, and **Sabino Canyon**, with its hiking trails, freshwater pools, and mini waterfalls. The retro-cool **Hotel McCoy** opened last summer with a pool and local art. And side trip alert! It's worth detouring two hours north to Phoenix for the all-day eatery **Roland's Cafe Market Bar**, a joint venture between award-winning pizza pro Chris Bianco and the duo behind Tacos Chiwas. While there, stay at **Arizona Biltmore**, a favorite among US presidents that just commemorated its 90th year with a \$35 million renovation. Take a **happy hour history tour** of the 39-acre property with your choice of two tipples—like a tequila sunrise (first created at the resort) and a Catalina Spritz (Marilyn Monroe's favorite to sip poolside).



4

IRON MAN, DJANGO
UNCHAINED, AND OTHER
MOVIES HAVE BEEN FILMED
IN ALABAMA HILLS



Eastern Sierra

WHY WE LOVE IT

It's an underappreciated playground for outdoor enthusiasts

Fancy a road trip within a road trip? Venture north near **Sequoia National Park** and begin your drive along the 395, a gateway to some of California's most photogenic natural wonders. You'll start in **Lone Pine**, an Old West town that's home to the impressive rock formations of **Alabama Hills**, where movies like 2013's *The Lone Ranger* were filmed, as well as **Mount Whitney**. From there head an hour north to **Bishop**, known for its trout fishing and bouldering—there's a women's climbing event March 22–24. **Great Basin Bakery** is a homey, tasty option for bagels, sandwiches, pastries, and coffee. Making your way another hour north, bypass the tried-and-true Mammoth Lakes and opt for **June Lake Loop**. The landscape of the 15-mile drive looks straight out of the Swiss Alps, with plenty of cycling, fishing, and horseback riding to keep you busy. When you want to rest up, **Double Eagle Resort & Spa** is the winner, with comfortable cabins (pets allowed in some), a spa, and an indoor pool. If you want to trek even farther, head to **Mono Lake**, a serene, slightly spooky basin with boating and nature walks.

Las Vegas

Sin City is more than just casinos, pulsating nightclubs, and restaurants that'll shrink your wallet. Here's a guide to the other side of Vegas—sparkly dresses and AmEx black cards not necessary.

SKIP THE BUFFETS—DINE

DOWNTOWN Located five miles from the flash of the Strip is a set of restaurants and cocktail bars that are much friendlier to your bank account. (And frankly, who needs a dozen types of pancakes before noon?) Try pies made by a 12-time pizza world champion at **Pizza Rock** (right) or Asian-influenced chicken dishes at **Flock & Fowl** from James Beard-nominated, Joël Robuchon-trained chef Sheridan Su.



FORGET CLUB HOPPING—GO COCKTAIL BAR HOPPING

Instead of succumbing to bottle service, try the numerous zero-fuss bars around town, beginning with **Herbs & Rye**, a locally loved steakhouse with great happy hour deals. Then head north to **Frankie's Tiki Room** for potent tropical tipples. When you cross east into the Arts District, the dimly lit **Velveteen Rabbit** will please everyone from cheap beer drinkers to cocktail connoisseurs. Finish the night at **Atomic Liquors**, a staple spot known for beer cocktails.



DON'T WALK THE STRIP—STROLL THE MUSEUMS

Vegas culture goes beyond Lady Gaga concerts and Cirque du Soleil performances. At the **Neon Museum**, visit the Neon Boneyard (left), an alfresco collection of iconic neon signs collected from casinos, restaurants, and elsewhere. This fall, director Tim Burton will bring his original fine art to the space. **The Mob Museum** (above) traces the history of organized crime in Las Vegas and throughout the country with hands-on forensic exhibits, preserved artifacts, and a working speakeasy and distillery to better explain the seedy side of the Prohibition era—and serve thirsty museum-goers.

8

HOURS

NAPA
SEDONA
SAN FRANCISCO

Napa

WHY WE LOVE IT

Newcomers are bucking the Napa traditions you used to know

You've ridden the wine train, dipped in the mud baths, and been denied a reservation at The French Laundry. Thanks to a crop of up-and-comers, Napa locales surrounded by old vines are finally keeping up with the times. On the northern tip of the region, Healdsburg's **Harmon Guest House**, a boutique with 39 rooms, opened last fall; so did **Vista Collina Resort** on the southern end. The latter boasts "The Village," a lawn next to a food and wine center with cooking classes and nine tasting rooms, where you can even support San Diegan Tim Bacino at **Gen7**. Indulge in buttermilk fried chicken at Yountville's **Addendum**, a counter-service offshoot of Ad Hoc (itself known for chef Thomas Keller's simple prix fixe dinner), before beginning your tasting. Robert Mondavi and Grgich Hills are a good place to start. Purchase a **Wine Priority Pass** online to help pare down the rest of your reservations with deals like two-for-one tastings at select wineries. **Ashes & Diamonds'** made-for-Instagram tasting room nails a midcentury-modern aesthetic as an homage to the era when wines really put the valley on the map. And while most of wine country calls it quits around 5 p.m., there's the updated **Villagio Bar & Lounge** in Yountville and **Sky & Vine Rooftop Bar** atop the Archer Hotel in downtown Napa, both of which stay up late for the die-hard oenophiles.



1. Napa Valley
2. Vista Collina Resort, Napa
3. Sedona

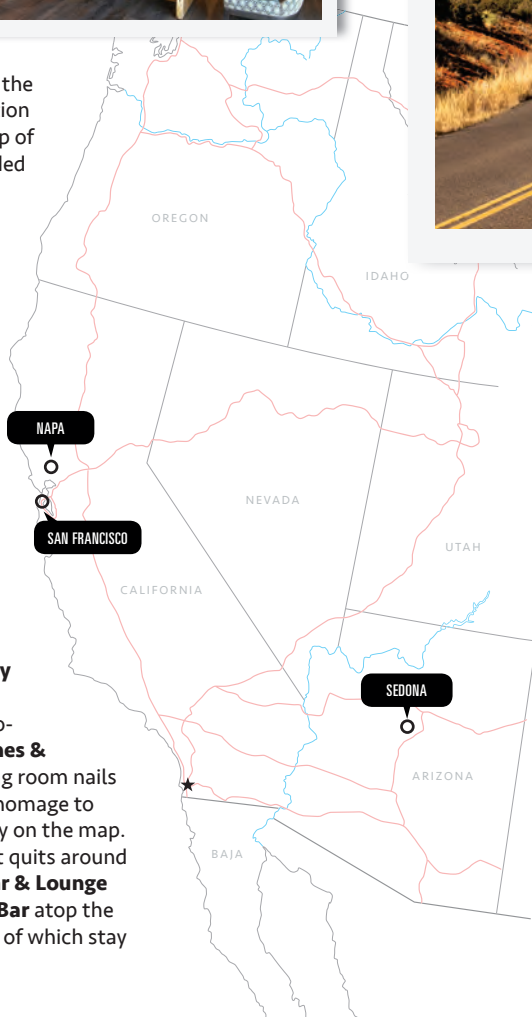
Sedona

WHY WE LOVE IT

It's one of the country's most famous R&R spots for a reason

This pine-forest oasis in the scorching Southwest is famous among New Age and alt-medicine circles for its four "vortexes,"

said to be natural centers of earth energy and enlightenment. Start with a psychic reading and aura photo from **Mystical Bazaar**. At **ChocolaTree**, nourish your physical body with an organic, homemade, largely vegan menu with gluten-free and raw options. For affordable crystals and geodes, brave the tourist crowds downtown for **Discount Gems & Minerals**—and enjoy the public-use marimbas just outside. **Marg's Draw** makes for an easy afternoon hike; or for a steeper trek, **Cathedral Rock Trail** brings you to one of the fabled vortexes. Once you've hit peak serenity, lay your head in one of **Sky Ranch Lodge Resort's** private cabins with a back porch that opens up to stunning views of the red-rock-bluff valley.





1. Hotel Emblem, San Francisco
2. Book butler at Hotel Emblem
3. Tilden Hotel, San Francisco
4. Big Sur



San Francisco

WHY WE LOVE IT

A new nonprofit restaurant is all the buzz

For 14 years, La Cocina has served as an incubator for food entrepreneurs in the saturated, uber-costly market of San Francisco. Their mission is to offer immigrant women and women of color affordable commercial kitchen space and technical assistance to build their businesses. So far, their efforts have helped launch several well-loved restaurants in the Bay Area: There's the Lebanese-Syrian bakery **Reem's California** and Cambodian **Nyum Bai** in Oakland, Southern food translated into sandwiches at **Pinky & Red's** in Berkeley, and vegan tamales at **Alicia's Tamales Los Mayas** in Hayward. This summer, the incubator will debut **La Cocina Municipal Market** in San Francisco's ever-changing Tenderloin neighborhood to showcase the many small businesses they've fostered. In the same neighborhood, the **Tilden Hotel's** minimalist design and suave in-house speakeasy are a welcome respite from the city's hubbub. **Hotel Emblem** on the border between Nob Hill and Union Square just opened in January, paying tribute to the Beat Generation in decor and activities. They offer Meditation Hour every Saturday, a book butler program, and poetry slam nights, when guests are encouraged to take the stage.

Pit Stop!

Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge, Big Sur's crucial connection to the outside world, reopened after a mudslide closed it down for eight months in 2017. Many of the hotels—like Post Ranch Inn and Ventana Big Sur—used that time to execute multimillion-dollar renovations. (Hello, glamping tents!) To really take in the scene, sign up for the Big Sur Marathon, taking place April 28 along Highway 1. The highlight is the tuxedo-clad pianist playing on a baby grand along the Bixby Bridge.





NATIONAL TREASURES

GRAND CANYON
YOSEMITE
ZION NATIONAL PARK
REDWOOD NATIONAL
+ STATE PARKS

There's no time like the present to show some love for our national parks. Here are three road-trip-friendly excursions, plus one longer haul that's worth every mile.



Grand Canyon

The Grand Canyon celebrates its 100th year as a national park in 2019 with events all year long. Highlights include the **Centennial Summerfest and Star Party** June 22–29 and a music festival August 25–26. The South Rim, a little over eight hours by car, offers that classic postcard landscape, but is also notoriously crowded. Opt for the more secluded **North Rim**, which is open after the snow melts from May to October and boasts vibrant foliage in the fall. You can make a home away from home with **Under Canvas**, a company that sets up glamping tents with a shower, sink, and flush toilet from late April to mid-November just outside the park in Valle, Arizona. (Their other locations include Yellowstone, Glacier, and Zion national parks, as well as Tucson, Mount Rushmore, Moab, and the Smoky Mountains.) After the arid areas, quench your visual thirst with a two-hour trip north to **Lake Powell**, a reservoir in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area that straddles the Arizona-Utah border, where you can swim, kayak, and hike.





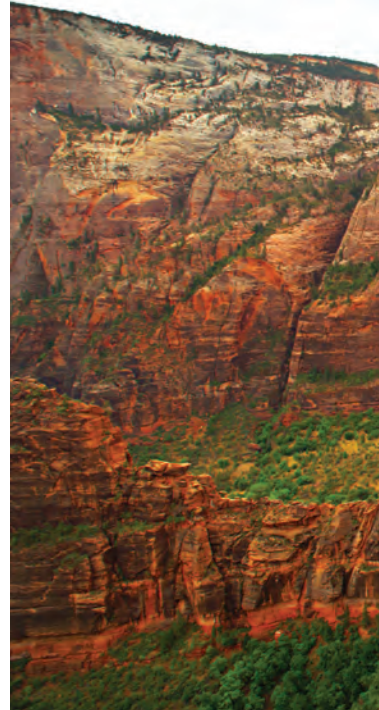
NATIONAL
TREASURES

Yosemite

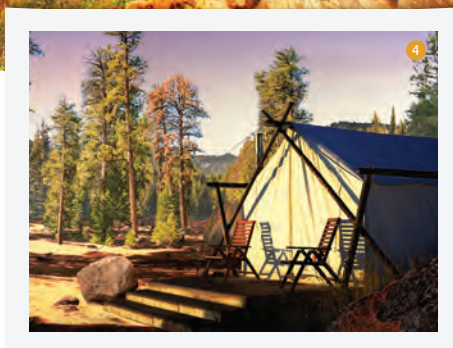
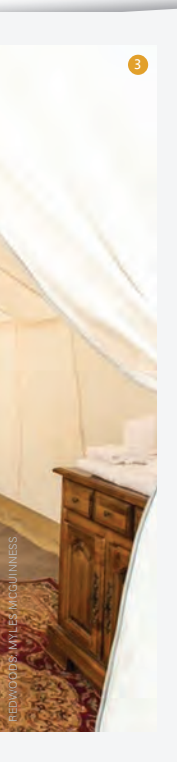
Eight hours from San Diego, Yosemite is all about the granite peaks and cliffs, especially **El Capitan** and **Half Dome**, which is why it's such a draw for rock climbers. If you're new to the sport or need a brush-up, REI's Kearny Mesa store is hosting a Preparing for Half Dome class on March 2 with tips on gear, routes, and training. Otherwise, Half Dome's summit is reachable on foot—if you've had a couple days to adjust to the altitude and start the 17-mile hike at the crack of dawn, that is. For an easier trail, seeing the supersize sequoias in **Mariposa Grove** is a must, and the park also offers a five-hour tour bus option departing from Yosemite Valley Lodge May through September.

The Majestic Yosemite Hotel, formerly the Ahwahnee, is the quintessential stay, but if you want to get a taste without the triple-digit commitment, lunch in their grand dining room will give you the flavor. For fun and inexpensive lodging minutes outside the park, stay in a yurt (sleeps four to six) at **Yosemite Lakes RV Resort**, complete with bathroom, kitchen, gas grill, and even cable TV.

1 & 2. Yosemite National Park
3 & 4. Under Canvas glamping tents
5. Zion National Park, Utah
6 & 7. Redwoods national and state parks



UNDER CANVAS
OFFERS MORNING
COFFEE UPON
REQUEST IN
TEMPERATURE-
CONTROLLED MUGS



Zion National Park

About eight hours from San Diego, Zion was Utah's first national park—now there are five—and it has some of the state's most famous trails. Check out the waterfalls of **Emerald Pools**, and **The Narrows**, a gorge with walls reaching thousands of feet high that requires “hiking” through a river. Or let someone else do the trekking for you: Local operators like **Zion Ponderosa** offer horseback riding trips into the park. When you want to rest those weary limbs, you can camp (**Lava Point** and **Watchman** are popular sites) or stay at the only in-park accommodation, **Zion Lodge**, in a cabin, hotel room, or suite surrounded by towering trees and red rock mountains.

Redwood National & State Parks

What a trip to the Redwoods costs in 800 miles worth of gas, it makes up for with the staggering sight of the world's largest trees. The national park, which celebrated its 50th anniversary last year, is unlike many others in that there's no entrance station or fee, and portions of it overlap with the state park, for which daily use fees apply. One of the best places to see the trees is the moderately challenging 4.2-mile **James Irvine Trail in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park**, which ends at **Fern Canyon**, a lush area (albeit redwood-free)

marked by a footbridge that's open in summer months. Or hop back in the car and drive the steep 17 miles down **Bald Hills Road** to see old-growth redwoods, wildflowers in the spring, and if you're lucky, Roosevelt elk.





Putting a Face



M E to San Diego's S

By Kelly Davis Photos by Sandy Huffaker

Alpha Project shelter at the
corner of 16th Street and
Newton Avenue downtown

It's been roughly two years since the largest Hepatitis A outbreak in recent US history began.

The virus swept through San Diego's homeless population, killing 20 people and sickening thousands. Hepatitis A thrives in unsanitary conditions, and the region's shortage of shelter beds—and 24-hour public restrooms—made homeless people particularly vulnerable.

¶ Amid the outbreak, restaurateur Dan Shea and Padres managing partner Peter Seidler offered to buy the city two industrial-sized tents to help get people off the street. The tents opened in December 2017. One, operated by the nonprofit Alpha Project, houses 324 people each night. A second, run by Veterans Village of San Diego, provides 200 beds in the Midway District. ¶ The city refers to these as “bridge” shelters, meaning they provide a link between living on the street and having stable housing. People with mental or physical disabilities are given priority, though beds are also available for people who need a few weeks or months to get back on their feet. Professional “housing navigators” work with shelter residents to help them find long-term options. ¶ Amy Gonyeau, chief operating officer of Alpha Project, says that despite the challenge of getting residents into permanent housing, the immediate needs the shelters address can't be denied—namely a safe place to sleep for women, the elderly, and disabled people, who are often preyed upon when unsheltered. The tents also serve as an entry point to services for those who need help with addiction or mental illness. ¶ “We've had over 35 other cities come to tour the East Village shelter, including Seattle, San Jose, Sacramento, and Los Angeles. They see this project as something they want to replicate in their cities. That alone says to us it's a great approach and having positive results.” ¶ In mid-October, writer Kelly Davis sat down with residents at the Alpha Project shelter. Here are three of their stories.





Hope Bermudez, 50

I've been homeless for 17, 18 years now—two years in San Diego. I was born and raised in New York, we went to Texas, and I became homeless.

In Texas, I was beaten really, really bad and ended up on life support. I was really messed up. My son was stationed out here in the military, and he said, "Well, Mom, you want to come to San Diego?" So I came out here. But I had that homeless in me—to be out in the streets—and I left my son's house. Then I overdosed on heroin and I said, "That's it." I went to the methadone clinic and then went back home to my son. He retired from the Marines, and we went back to Texas.

I didn't feel right in Texas—it wasn't for me. So I decided to get on a Greyhound bus: one-way ticket \$278, and \$324.43 in my pocket. It was August 28, 2016. I felt there was more to offer for the homeless out here, and I was going to give myself exactly one year to get situated. But I landed back on drugs again and ended up in the hospital for three months with a bacterial infection in my spine. I almost died from that. So I pulled through and then I said, "That's it. I'm going to stop doing everything." One day the SDPD Homeless Outreach Team rolled up on me and they were like, "Hope, you want to go

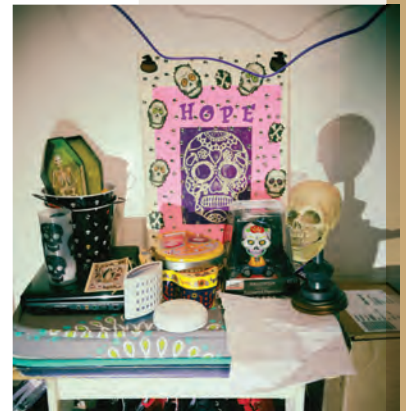
into the tent?" I got in the van and that was it. I've been with them since October 6, 2017.

I do a lot of stuff here—anything that staff needs. Residents always talk to me about problems they're having. Even the staff comes up to me if they can't find something, like if they don't know how to turn on the AC units. I know where everything is.

My bunk is my little sanctuary. Whenever I have problems, when the world's getting too heavy on my shoulders, I come in here and color.

I've got my coloring books, my gel pens, paint crayons, and pencils, and I sit here and color.

I want to get my housing and go into Alpha Square. I want to do counseling for adolescents before they get to my point. And my Alpha Project case manager, CJ, said he could help me with that, with schooling and all that. He can help me get my foot in the door. I'm just sitting and waiting patiently for housing. Patience is a virtue. I'm in no rush. I've gotten into housing and screwed up and ended up back on the streets again. I don't plan on being one of the statistics. I want my kids to be proud of me.



Elaine Erickson, 53

I first came to the shelter in August.

I had moved back to North Carolina, but my sons were still out here. My eldest son was telling me that he was staying at a shelter. When I first came here, I had a car. I was living in my car for a little while. But my car broke down—it's not drivable.

So the option I have now is, I can go back to North Carolina. It's just so much cheaper. My son who's in the shelter, so far he's doing really good here. There are people who don't get

along, but so far I haven't had any problems here. I do want to be here with him so I can look over him. He's a grown person; I don't want to baby him too much. To me it's a comfort to have him here.

He's 33. He's working on getting housing and I'm also making him work on getting a job. I actually have two sons who live in San Diego. My youngest son is living in his car, and he has a girlfriend who's living with him. They seem happy, but they can't afford the expense of getting an apartment.

When I first came to San Diego in 1986 I was able to get a housing voucher, but at that time they were just giving them away. Everyone had housing at that time. Then it stopped, and that's when all the shelters started coming up.

Sometimes I do miss back east, but this is a nice place to live as well. I love the sunshine here. My sons don't want to go back. I had a really good job in Raleigh for seven years. I was hoping they'd want to come back and live with me. But they love it here. If only rents would go down.

**“WHEN I FIRST
CAME TO SAN
DIEGO, I WAS
LIVING IN MY
CAR. BUT IT
BROKE DOWN.”**





“I WOULD
LIKE A
DOG. I
WOULD
LIKE A
BACKYARD
WHERE
I CAN
HAVE A
BARBECUE.”

Scott Stephenson, 40

I'm from Chicago. I grew up in foster care. I was taken away from my parents when I was three years old because there was a death in the family. I went through a lot of abuse in foster homes.

I've been here since July. Before I got into the shelter, I was on the street for approximately three or four days. I had to chase down the Alpha Project outreach van to get in here. They stopped and I was like, “Hey, I need to get in there.” Before that I was at the Motel 6 off Second Street for 18 days, and before that I was at the Volunteers of America, where I graduated from their 60-day rehab program. I ended up there because of the years of being bullied, sexual abuse, and wrong decisions.

I'm letting these things out. I'm talking with

some people that will listen to me. Other people don't want to hear it. I'm doing it nonviolently; I'm doing it peacefully, protesting on my own behalf. We're working on the trauma.

I've never learned who Scott is. I've always learned to fit in with other people, because I've moved around so much. Always moved somewhere else. I pray that I do get another chance of having my own place. I would like a dog. I would like a backyard where I can have a barbecue or sit out there and have my little umbrella or whatever and be peaceful. I believe my life is the way it is now, with the security wall broken down on my part, because the only way to heal is to tear it down. I'm here to live a better productive life than I've been taught to live in the past.

BY THE NUMBERS

The numbers don't lie: San Diego is dealing with one of the country's worst homeless crises. Here's a look at where our county stands and seven concrete ways you can help.

8,576

Total homeless population
(includes people living in shelters, cars, tents, and short-term housing programs)

2,171

People considered chronically homeless *(with a disabling condition, and homeless for at least a year)*

235

People who died while homeless over the last two years

55

People under age 50 who died on the street since 2017

Loss of employment is the main driver of homelessness.



increase in unsheltered homeless veterans

from 2017 to 2018

\$18M

Federal funds allocated to San Diego County to address homelessness

UNSHELTERED* HOMELESS POPULATION

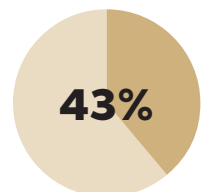
4,990

1,312 Veterans

659 Youth

1,340 Women

UNSHeltered MEANS "IN A PLACE NOT MEANT FOR HUMAN HABITATION, SUCH AS CARS, PARKS, SIDEWALKS, ABANDONED BUILDINGS." —DEPT. OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT



have a chronic health condition.

Additionally, 43% have a physical disability.

SOURCES: REGIONAL TASK FORCE ON THE HOMELESS SAN DIEGO ANNUAL POINT IN TIME COUNT (CONDUCTED JANUARY 2018). SAN DIEGO COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER

SEVEN WAYS TO HELP THE HOMELESS NOW

1 Attend an event

Father Joe's Villages is hosting a "Taste of the Village" March 21. Tour the East Village center, taste wine and Italian food, and learn more about their programs with speaker CEO Deacon Jim Vargas. my.neighbor.org

2 Join a coalition

Think Dignity is a nonprofit that works to advance basic dignity for San Diegans living on the streets. The Basic Dignity Coalition campaigns for concrete goals like public bathroom installation and meets the first Thursday of every month at Moniker Warehouse downtown. thinkdignity.org

3 Shop through Amazon Smile

Before the next time you hit Buy Now, log on to smile.amazon.com and select an organization like San Diego Rescue Mission or Feeding San Diego. Amazon donates half a percent of each purchase to your chosen charity.

4 Buy a winter care kit

One Act of Kindness is an initiative to distribute supplies to San Diego's homeless

population. Starting at \$25, you can provide one person with necessities like socks, a sweatshirt, and toothpaste.

luckyduckfoundation.org

5 Donate your time

Urban Angels serves dinner downtown at Connections Housing (daily, 5:30-7 p.m.) and The Salvation Army (Wednesdays, 5:30-7 p.m.). Bring your kids age 13 and up. urban-angels.com

6 Support our veterans

Three thousand volunteers are needed for Veterans Village of San Diego's annual Stand Down event, an intervention program serving more than 800 homeless veterans and their families at San Diego High School, June 28-30. vvsd.net

7 Start your own donation drive


Organize your own drive for items that Alpha Project needs immediately, such as toiletries, pillows, socks, blankets, and bottled water. Or bring your own supply downtown to Alpha Square on 14th and Market streets, to the bridge shelter on Newton Avenue and 16th Street, or to Casa Raphael in Vista. alphaproject.org



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Freedom Dogs

March 2, 2019

18th Annual Black & White Ball
*Proceeds to benefit South
Bay Community Services*

March 3, 2019

Puppy Love 5K
*To benefit Helen
Woodward
Animal Center*

March 16 & 17, 2019

**36th Annual San Diego Cake
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*The San Diego Cake Club
fund-raiser to benefit
Ronald McDonald House
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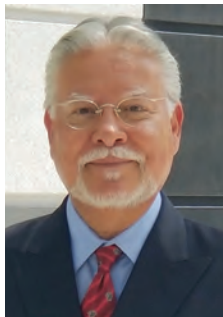
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For more than 30 years, Cohelan Khoury and Singer has specialized in class actions in California with an emphasis in labor and employment law, successfully representing hundreds of thousands of employees. The firm has based its practice on a commitment to truth, honesty, and careful understanding of its clients' interests in complex litigation throughout the state, specializing in consumer class actions, antitrust, and public interest cases.

With more than a century of combined civil litigation experience, including certified class

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Father-and-son trial lawyers Michael Kirby and Jason Kirby have practiced law together in San Diego

for almost 20 years. Their litigation expertise covers business, partnerships, real estate, and investor disputes. They have represented, and litigated against, some of the most prominent companies and individuals in San Diego.

In a 2018 jury trial, the firm obtained a complete defense verdict for their client who was wrongfully accused of elder abuse and professional negligence. In another 2018 jury trial, the firm obtained a \$2.1 million verdict for a minor student who had been sexually abused by a teacher. The verdict was against the teacher and the school district.

Mike and Jason represent a wide variety of clients in actual and potential litigation disputes.

In 2018, Kirby & Kirby was again recognized by U.S. News – Best Lawyers as one of the “Best Law Firms” in San Diego. Mike was recognized by Best Lawyers in four separate categories: Bet the Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation, Real Estate Litigation, and Securities Litigation.

Mike and Jason are separately recognized as “Top Lawyers” by *San Diego Magazine*, and both are rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, which reflects the highest level of professional excellence.

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Spotlight

FOUR picks for this month

FOURTANÉ ROLEX BOUTIQUE

Fourtané is pleased to announce the inauguration of the only Rolex boutique in San Diego County. Located within Fashion Valley, the new boutique features a custom-designed exhibition called the "Deepest Dive," demonstrating Rolex's ongoing commitment to ocean exploration.

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Dr. Hosalkar is a world-renowned orthopedist helping care for both the adult and pediatric populations in our community while drawing regional and national referrals to San Diego and continuing to engage in mission and charity work at a global level. Appreciative of recognition by his peers and honored to be named one of San Diego's "Top Doctors" since 2016, Dr. Hosalkar continues to provide compassionate care and practice cutting-edge techniques to help patients return to full activity and function.

619-512-1600 | drhosalkar.com



SAN DIEGO FOOD BANK'S ANNUAL GALA

The San Diego Food Bank's annual Chefs, Cork & Craft Gala will take place at its 90,000-square-foot warehouse in Miramar on Saturday, April 27, featuring 30 local chefs who will each prepare a multicourse dinner with drink pairings. Each chef will act as a personal chef for the evening for their assigned table of 10 guests. Proceeds benefit the Food 4 Kids Backpack Program, which provides weekend backpacks of food to local elementary school children who are living in poverty.

*sandiegofoodbank.org/gala
858-863-5199*



THE GREAT KINDNESS CHALLENGE

Kids for Peace, a Carlsbad-based global nonprofit, was thrilled to present their eighth annual Great Kindness Challenge. Over 500 San Diego County schools and 25,000 schools nationwide united to complete half a billion acts of kindness. These trailblazing kids are proving that kindness matters!

760-730-3320 | kidsforpeaceglobal.org

2019 FIVE STAR AWARD WINNERS

Real Estate Agents | Mortgage Professionals | Home/Auto Insurance Professionals



“Your heart has to be in the right place — you have to genuinely desire to make a difference in your clients’ lives.”

— Five Star award winner



“Make sure you’re dealing with someone who is knowledgeable and ethical.”

— Five Star award winner

“Work with a professional who takes the time to understand your unique situation.”

— Five Star award winner

At Five Star Professional,
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For our complete list of award winners in your area,
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“Always be honest. It can take a lifetime to build a reputation, but it can only take a second to destroy it.”

— Five Star award winner

Featured winners from our Five Star Professional section

SAN DIEGO

AWARD WINNERS RECOGNIZED FOR PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

REAL ESTATE AGENTS » MORTGAGE PROFESSIONALS » HOME/AUTO INSURANCE PROFESSIONALS



Five Star Professional partnered with *San Diego Magazine* to identify real estate, mortgage and insurance professionals in the San Diego area who deliver outstanding service and client satisfaction. The Five Star Professional research team contacted thousands of recent homebuyers, as well as other consumers. Clients may also submit evaluations online. Phone and online respondents rated their service professional on criteria such as overall satisfaction and whether they would recommend the provider to a friend. The research methodology allows no more than 7 percent of professionals in each category to receive the award.



Research — How Our Winners Are Chosen

- The 2019 Five Star Real Estate Agents, Mortgage Professionals and Home/Auto Insurance Professionals do not pay a fee to be included in the research or the final lists.
- Each professional is screened against state-governing bodies to verify that licenses are current and no disciplinary actions are pending.
- The inclusion of a real estate agent, mortgage professional or insurance professional on the final list should not be construed as an endorsement by Five Star Professional or *San Diego Magazine*.

Determination of Award Winners

Professionals who satisfied each of the following objective criteria were named a San Diego-area 2019 Five Star Real Estate Agent, Five Star Mortgage Professional or Five Star Home/Auto Insurance Professional:

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Qualifying rating

Eligibility Criteria:

2. Holds an active license and employed in their field for a minimum of three years
3. Favorable regulatory and complaint history review

4. Satisfies minimum production on a one-year and three-year basis

5. Successful completion of a Blue Ribbon Panel review

Real estate agents, mortgage professionals and home/auto insurance professionals are pooled only with other candidates from their profession.

The final list of 2019 San Diego Five Star award winners is a select group, representing approximately 2 percent of real estate agents, 7 percent of mortgage professionals and 1 percent of home/auto insurance professionals in the area.

To see the full list of winners, visit www.fivestarpromotional.com.



Michelle Serafini

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The old adage in real estate is that it is all about location. To Michelle, it is all about coastal location! Her group's success comes from the business and creative marketing strategy they apply to the story of the home which attracts the right buyers. This unique talent has made her one of the leading agents in La Jolla and Pacific Beach, earning a spot in the top 2 percent nationally and being named one of the 100 Most Influential Agents in Southern California. She is sought after for her creativity and professionalism.

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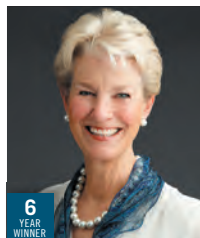
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Eleven-year winner Phil Reed
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preed@willisallen.com

Kimberly Platt



Phone: 619-248-7039
kp4sdre@gmail.com

Beth Zedaker



Phone: 619-602-9610
bethzedaker@gmail.com

HIGHLIGHTS

» Primarily referral-based clientele

» Specializing in extraordinary properties

» Serving Greater San Diego

» Christie's International Real Estate affiliate

» Top-producing residential real estate agents

» Luxury Portfolio International affiliate

The success of Willis Allen Real Estate hinges not only on our history and local expertise, but also on our cutting-edge marketing program. We were one of the first San Diego real estate companies to have a website and to go global with our marketing and advertising. We continue to innovate with a staff dedicated to the latest real estate tools for the internet and social media. While many things have changed since we sold our first home 104 years ago, Willis Allen Real Estate's foundation has stood the test of time. In May 2013, we were awarded the Exclusive Affiliate status of Christie's International Real Estate. This affiliation, in conjunction with Luxury Portfolio International, solidifies our position as the unrivaled leader in San Diego's luxury real estate market.

What sets us apart:

Established in 1914, Willis Allen Real Estate is the largest and most respected independent real estate firm in San Diego County. As a locally owned company, we can offer our clients the highest level of service through our attractive and modern marketing programs, industry leading technology, our exclusive partnerships with Christie's International Real Estate and Leading Real Estate Companies of the World and our experienced brokers. At Willis Allen Real Estate, there is no need for an open-door policy. Our management team works in direct cooperation with our Realtors every day. They average 25-plus years of industry experience. Whether you're thinking about listing your property, beginning your search for a new one or have a question about the area, feel free to contact us.

CONTACT



La Jolla, CA 92037 • Phone: 877-515-7443 • info@willisallen.com
www.WillisAllen.com • Facebook: @WillisAllenRealEstate • Instagram: @willisallenrealestate
Twitter: @WARE1914 • LinkedIn: Willis Allen Real Estate

Real Estate Agent Award Winner



7
YEAR
WINNER

Seven-year winner Matt O'Brien, Realtor, Lic. 01298403

Matt O'Brien

Realtor, Military Relocation Professional — MRP

Your Personal Guide Through Real Estate!

- » Representing buyers and sellers throughout San Diego
- » San Diego Association of Realtors member
- » San Diego Association of Realtors Circle of Excellence recipient

Matt is a driven, full-time professional San Diego real estate consultant who thrives on gratified clients. His integrity, providing a high standard of care and protecting his clients' interests and goals are paramount. Matt is passionate about helping others achieve their dreams and goals by sharing his knowledge and experience in real estate to guide them home. He believes in empowering his clients to make informed decisions on what is often the largest investment of their lives. Keeping his word and safeguarding the interests of his clients has defined his real estate career. His strong knowledge of the principles, practices and procedures involved in real estate transactions enable him to be a strong negotiator, provide constructive feedback and ensure he and his clients stay on target to reach their goals.

REALTYONEGROUP
SAN DIEGO

San Diego, CA 92108 • Cell: 619-302-3010
matt@homecrave.com • www.HomeCrave.com
linkedin.com/in/mattobrien7
facebook.com/HomeCrave

Real Estate Agent Award Winner



4
YEAR
WINNER

Left to right: Four-year winner Huda Helton, DRE 01874384;
Two-year winner Kelcey Felber, DRE 01873365

Huda Helton and Kelcey Felber

Exceeding Expectations in a Competitive Market

- » Over 20 years of combined real estate experience
- » Top 1% of Realtors in San Diego County (Circle of Excellence)

As San Diego natives with more than two decades of combined real estate experience, Huda and Kelcey know and cover all facets of the San Diego real estate market. They understand that buying a home is one of the largest purchases someone will make in their lifetime. They also understand and appreciate the intricate natures in listing and selling a property. They pride themselves on their knowledge and diligence in expertly guiding their clients through these most important processes. They're firm believers that quality of service is based on listening to their clients' needs and providing options.

Huda and Kelcey have the same goal of exceeding their clients' expectations and believe that it's important to extend relationships beyond the home-closing process. They are in the top 1 percent of Realtors in San Diego County and have received several awards for not only their achievements, but also for the level of service and dedication they have given to their clients over the years.

REALTY EXECUTIVES **DILLON**

2240 Otay Lake Road, Suite 306 • Chula Vista, CA 91915
Huda: 619-850-3630 • Hudasellshomes@gmail.com • DreamBigSanDiego.com
Kelcey: 619-250-7066 • Kelcey@RealtyExecutivesDillon.com • RealtyExecutivesDillon.com

Real Estate Agent Award Winner



2019 Rising Star Real Estate Agent Ehab Ismail

Keller Williams San Diego Central Coastal

2877 Historic Decatur Road, Suite 500 • San Diego, CA 92106

Cell: 646-221-2830 • Office: 619-630-9762

eismail@kw.com • www.ehabsellssandiego.com

Rising Star Real Estate Agent Award Winner

Ehab Ismail

Realtor, DRE 02034817

Buy With Confidence — Sell With Success

- » 2019 Rising Star Real Estate Agent
- » B.A. in economics from Bucknell University
- » Savvy marketing tactics based on local knowledge paired with strong client communication

As a top-producing agent at my brokerage, I provide highly personalized real estate consultations, concierge-level service and a boundless drive that gets the job done! Whether you are buying or selling your home, I will be by your side throughout the process to ensure everything comes to a successful, seamless conclusion.

I spent 20 years building a career in the retail industry analyzing global trends, creating optimal marketing strategies, understanding the needs of my clients and providing them with the best product at the best price at the right time. Now, I'm ready to use my talents to provide customized service for my discerning real estate clients.

Allen Meredith

Real Estate Consultant



5810 El Camino Real, Suite D
Carlsbad, CA 92008
Phone: 760-271-5153
Allen@AllenMeredith.com
www.AllenMeredithGroup.com

10
YEAR
WINNER

Guaranteeing Home Sales

- Over 25 years of real estate expertise
- Sells homes faster with a 10-year average of 31 days on market
- Sells homes for 3.47% more, 10-year average
- Exclusive *Buyers in Waiting* program

Whether I'm selling your current home, finding your family's next home or helping you find the right mortgage lender, as your real estate coach, I am here to make your homebuying or selling experience a positive one, right now and for a lifetime.

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

OB Juncal

Broker, CalBRE 01484096



580 Grand Avenue, Suite A
Carlsbad, CA 92008
Office: 760-994-2404
ob@juncalrealestate.com
www.juncalrealestate.com

6
YEAR
WINNER

**Local Expert and
Trusted Professional**

- Extensive local knowledge and market insight
- Negotiation expert
- Community advocate
- Top-producing North County Realtor

OB Juncal is one of the most competent, hard-working and personable Realtors in the area. His industry knowledge, coupled with his charismatic personality, provide great support and strength in the San Diego real estate market. There is no better person to help you buy or sell a home. OB strives to please his clients, and goes above and beyond to make sure each client is completely satisfied. You will quickly see that he is the best real estate agent in the business.

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

Virginia Townsend Gissing

Realtor



1615 South Mission Road, Suite A
Fallbrook, CA 92028
Cell: 949-292-2850
Office: 760-731-2900
viriniagissing@aol.com

5
YEAR
WINNER

Doing More From For Sale to Sold

- Over 20 years of experience
- Design and staging expertise
- From lots to luxury properties
- Extensive local knowledge

I have been involved in hundreds of transactions since 1996, and with that comes knowledge and experience that I can use to help you locate the best home or investment for you or help you list and sell your house. I also have a good eye for staging properties to help sell your home quickly! I am a hands-on agent and will be with you every step of the transaction, and most importantly, I will still be around to help you long after you close escrow on your house!

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

Carl and Terri Lofthouse



10
YEAR
WINNER

Left to right: Ten-year winner Carl Lofthouse, CalBRE 01792388
Nine-year winner Terri Lofthouse, CalBRE 01792389

Call Us Before You Make Your Next Move!

It is an honor to receive the Five Star Real Estate Agent award. Thank you to our wonderful clients! We are committed to helping you buy or sell your home with the highest level of expertise and experience, which has helped us build a remarkable track record of delivering outstanding results. You can count on us to work for what is in your best interest. We pride ourselves on being honest, trustworthy and knowledgeable in your real estate journey. Give us a call before you make your next move!



3138 Roosevelt Street, Ste. N • Carlsbad, CA 92008
Phone: 760-505-9631
CarlAndTerri@LofthouseRealtors.com
www.LofthouseRealtors.com

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

Bob Hillery

Broker/Owner, CDPE, CMRS



CR Properties Real Estate Services

128 South Main Avenue
Fallbrook, CA 92028
Cell: 760-696-7482
Office: 760-645-0792
bob@bobhillery.com
www.bobhillery.com

8
YEAR
WINNER

Because Integrity Matters

- Over 15 years of real estate experience
- Certified Distressed Property Expert®
- Certified Military Residential Specialist
- EcoBroker®
- Commercial real estate investment consultant

Primarily working in northern San Diego and southern Riverside counties, Bob's specialties for both buyers and sellers include residential resale, land, new construction, distressed properties, VA and FHA transactions, commercial properties and business opportunities. Take advantage Bob's extensive and varied expertise to guide you and your family toward a successful conclusion of your transaction. If it can be done, Bob will get you there.

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

Trudy Stambook

Luxury Specialist, CCS, CIPS, CNE, SRS



Centre City Properties

220 West G Street, Suite A
San Diego, CA 92101
Direct: 619-252-1944
www.TrudyStambook.com
Trudy@TrudyStambook.com

8
YEAR
WINNER

Passion for Discreet,
Personalized Service

- Specializing in downtown San Diego's luxury real estate market for over 30 years
- Serving as a meaningful source of factual, up-to-date information, allowing clients to make informed real estate decisions
- Recognized for unwavering commitment to the enrichment of the local community and progression of downtown's redevelopment

Please accept my heartfelt appreciation for the opportunity and privilege of representing your real estate interests. I am truly honored to be your agent of choice and am inspired to continue to provide you with discreet, individualized service in the years to come.

CalBRE 00694195; Centre City Properties, CalBRE 01076944.

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

Kris Gelbart

Premier Director, Realtor, DRE 01345809



Windermere
HOMES & ESTATES

1312-A Camino Del Mar
Del Mar, CA 92014
Phone: 858-395-0761
KrisGelbart@gmail.com
www.KrisGelbartRealtyAssociates.com

8
YEAR
WINNER

**Dedicated to Your
Real Estate Needs**

Kris and her team provide:

- Buying and selling guidance countywide
- Strength of 40-plus combined years of experience and award recognition
- Serving everything from first-time buyers to experienced investors — we've got you covered

Kris and her team are full-time, hands-on real estate professionals dedicated to making your transaction smooth from start to finish. As a result of several years of multimillion-dollar production, Kris and her team consistently rank in the top of the real estate profession. Whether you are looking to purchase or sell San Diego real estate, Kris Gelbart's team will provide you with unparalleled service to achieve your goals.

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

Holly Hermanson

Realtor, CalBRE 01447429



WILLIS ALLEN REAL ESTATE
CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

1424 Camino Del Mar
Del Mar, CA 92014
Office: 858-755-6761
Cell: 619-417-8974
hollyhermanson@icloud.com
www.delmarcoasthomes.com

8
YEAR
WINNER

San Diego Coastal Expert

- Innovative marketing strategies
- Expertise about neighborhood features
- Strong negotiation skills
- Support through closing and beyond

I am a customer-focused, experienced real estate professional. I will listen to your needs and find or sell the perfect home for you. It's a great honor to be selected as a Five Star Real Estate Agent year after year!

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

Loren Uber

Real Estate Broker, CalBRE 01925176, NMLS 1320226



UBERco

4550 Kearny Villa Road, Suite 217
San Diego, CA 92123
Phone: 619-988-5277
Loren@theUBERco.com
www.theUBERco.com

4
YEAR
WINNER

**A Top-Producing Real Estate
Agent and Senior Loan Officer**

- Nearly 20 years of experience
- Refinancing and loan origination expertise
- Representing buyers from the first showing through closing
- Specializing in serving military housing needs

I am a real estate broker who specializes in working with the military community of San Diego. Whether the buyer is on active duty, is a veteran, retired or disabled, I can help. I am my clients' Realtor as well as their lender. My clients will benefit from my knowledge and integrity, my wealth of experience and my thorough understanding of the San Diego real estate market. Whether you are selling, buying, financing or simply investing, I will provide you the very best service every step of the way.

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

Amy Cook

Realtor, CalBRE 01723190



Amy Cook
coastal
premier

16615 Dove Canyon Road, Suite 101
San Diego, CA 92127
Phone: 858-414-7962
amycookrealtor@gmail.com
www.amycookrealtor.com

10
YEAR
WINNER

**Award-Winning Service,
Every Step of the Way!**

- San Diego Association of Realtors Platinum Circle of Excellence award winner
- Experience with new construction transactions
- Working with buyers and sellers

Multimillion-dollar producer Amy Cook, a 10-year Five Star Real Estate Agent award winner, brings years of homebuying and selling expertise to her clients. She is ranked among the top real estate agents in San Diego and credits her success to treating her clients with honesty and integrity. Amy and her team provide meticulous attention to detail, every step of the way, in order to achieve the best results for both buyers and sellers.

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

Krista Lombardi

Realtor, CDPE, CLHMS, CNE, SRS



1111 Fort Stockton Drive, Suite B
San Diego, CA 92103
Phone: 619-519-3251
kristalombardi@gmail.com
lombarditeam.com

12
YEAR
WINNER

**Lombardi Team: You've Got
Questions, We've Got Answers**

- 2011, 2016 and 2018 winner of San Diego's Best Union-Tribune Readers Poll for real estate agents
- 2012 third-place ranking in San Diego's Best Union-Tribune Readers Poll of real estate agents
- Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist™

Krista's clients know firsthand she's truly there for them during and after the transaction; this is why her past clients refer family, friends and colleagues to her year after year. Great negotiation, experience and genuine care for her clients are just some of the reasons you should work with Krista. She doesn't just match people and homes — she builds lasting, caring relationships with everyone. If someone mentions real estate — mention her name; you and that person will be glad you did.

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

Vay Ashby

Realtor, DRE 01462655



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
California Properties

11120 East Ocean Air Drive, Suite 103
San Diego, CA 92130
Phone: 760-815-5370
vayashby1@gmail.com
www.VayAshby.com

11
YEAR
WINNER

**Satisfied Clients Are
the Key to My Success**

- Establish your goals and objectives
- Effective and thorough communication

My business is about providing superior service, and I am not happy until my clients are happy. After over a decade in the business, I have earned the experience to assist with nearly every real estate need. Whether it's finding the perfect home for my buyers or helping clients get the highest price when selling their home, I guide and enable a profitable and graceful transaction.

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

Melissa Tucci

Broker/Realtor, CalDRE 01380034



San Diego, CA 92116
Direct: 619-787-6852
sold@MelissaTucci.com
www.MelissaTucci.com

10
YEAR
WINNER

I'll Run the Extra Mile for You

- The official real estate agent of the San Diego Padres
- Ranked No. 1 statewide — Coldwell Banker
- Ranked No. 1 nationwide — CENTURY 21
- Ranked No. 2 worldwide, 2015 — CENTURY 21
- Double Centurion award winner
- Featured on TV show "The American Dream as a Real Estate Specialist"
- Top Agent Magazine featured cover winner

My personalized service combined with professionalism, knowledge and enthusiasm for real estate is what differentiates me from the rest. I specialize in representing my clients in the purchases and sales of single-family residences, condominiums, townhomes and income properties.

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

Rosamaria Acuña

Realtor, CRS, GRI



1299 Prospect Street, Suite 100
La Jolla, CA 92037
Cell: 619-890-2828
acunarosamaria@gmail.com
www.justcallros.com

10
YEAR
WINNER

**Point Loma San Diego Coastal
Real Estate Professional**

- Full-service real estate professional
- 30-plus years of experience
- Certified Residential Specialist
- Award-winning, top-producing agent
- Extensive market knowledge
- Dedicated client service

From consulting and negotiating to using the latest technology and marketing resources, Rosamaria will help you sell or buy your home while delivering a seamless and successful experience. As one of Greater San Diego's most trusted agents for residential and investment property transactions, she has a real passion for real estate and is committed to her clients and the community. Thinking about making your next move? Contact Rosamaria today!

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

12
YEAR
WINNER**Tim Skoglin**

Broker/Owner

- Success measured by client satisfaction for 24 years
 - Consistent and full-time leadership throughout strong and weak market conditions
 - Attention to detail and a desire to get things right
- Tim prides himself on listening to what is most important to his clients' needs to make their transactions a success. He is honored to be one of only a select handful of trusted brokers in the San Diego real estate community to be a 12-year winner of this excellence in service award! Service and communication should be the easy part.

10531 4S Commons Drive, Suite 607 • San Diego, CA 92127
Phone: 858-592-0100 • Tim@SkoglinRealEstate.com
www.SkoglinRealEstate.com

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

10
YEAR
WINNER**Windermere
Homes & Estates****Barbara Stuart**

Realtor, CalBRE 00876985

- 33 years of experience
- Consistent top-producing agent
- San Diego County specialist

Barbara is dedicated to providing smooth transactions and positive experiences in every aspect of a sale. She diligently builds strong relationships based on trust and honesty. Her core values, solid business practices and unparalleled market knowledge have ensured the majority of her business is repeat and referral based.

16783 Bernardo Center Drive • San Diego, CA 92128
Phone: 858-204-5700 • barbara@barbarastuart.net • barbarastuart.net

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

11
YEAR
WINNER**George Cooke**

Realtor, e-PRO®, SRES®, CalBRE 01435275

- International President's Elite member

George Cooke, a top-producing agent with Coldwell Banker, provides outstanding service with a winning combination of community expertise and marketing skills. Because most buyers begin their search on the internet, it's important to have a marketing plan that makes your home stand out and be noticed online. George aims to make sure your property gains the utmost exposure on the market.

16789 Bernardo Center Drive, Suite B • San Diego, CA 92128
Phone: 858-674-1222 • Phone: 858-472-4286
george@georgecooke.com • www.georgecooke.com

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

11
YEAR
WINNER**Maria Nunn-Evans**

Realtor, CalBRE 00825643

- Serving you at a level that will inspire you to refer her to your friends and loved ones
- Professional, positive, knowledgeable and responsive

"I have dealt with agents in the past; however, my experience with Maria is by far the most professional I have witnessed ... Had Maria not been extremely patient and persistent, I would not have had this opportunity ... the bottom line is she worked for me, not for a commission check." — Jeff Niemi, client

6965 El Camino Real, Suite 107 • Carlsbad, CA 92009
Phone: 760-519-8859 • maria@evansexclusiveestates.com
www.EvansExclusiveEstates.com

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

7
YEAR
WINNER**Rocky Rockhill**

Realtor, CalBRE 01197738

- Assisting buyers and sellers
- Serving San Diego's real estate needs
- Prioritizing client service

As your professional real estate advisor, I focus on client satisfaction. My business is about service, and I am not happy until you are happy. My years in the business have provided me the experience to assist you with nearly every real estate need.

1111 Fort Stockton Drive, Suite B • San Diego, CA 92103
Phone: 619-972-3033 • rocky@rockyrochill.com
www.rockyrochill.com

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

7
YEAR
WINNER**Laila Coucroux**

Real Estate Broker, Owner, CalBRE 01433600

- Accredited Buyer's Representative
- Trilingual
- Recognition of Excellence, Gold Circle Recipient, 2016

I am confident once you experience my unmatched service paired with integrity, you will want to share it with your family and friends. I obtain my business through referrals from past clients, colleagues, family and friends. Allow me to guide you home today!

333 Horizon Drive • Encinitas, CA 92024
Phone: 619-793-8014 • laila.coucroux@gmail.com
www.findsandiegocountyhomes.com

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

7
YEAR
WINNER**San Diego
Market Realty****Jody VanSumner**

Realtor, CalBRE 01422427

- Featured in *Forbes* as a 2019 Five Star Professional Market Leader for real estate
- SDAR Recognition of Excellence and Circle of Excellence award winner, 2016 – 2017

As a third-generation San Diego native, I am truly honored to be recognized by you, my clients, for the seventh consecutive year as one of San Diego's Five Star Real Estate Agents. Thank you for your continued trust and confidence in me. You are five-star clients!

4455 Murphy Canyon Road, Suite 10019 • San Diego, CA 92123
Cell: 619-962-8800 • jodyvansumer@gmail.com
www.SDMarketRealty.com

Real Estate Agent Award Winner

10
YEAR
WINNER**Sandra Copeland**

Realtor, CalBRE 00679984

- Ranked in the top 100 out of nearly 20,000 agents in San Diego (*San Diego Real Producers Magazine* 2018)
- Marketing professional whose listings consistently sell at record-high prices

Sandra Copeland is a savvy sales and marketing expert with over 40 years of experience. She provides unparalleled property exposure through strategic and innovative marketing, powered by intelligent and impactful presentations of each property to deliver maximum results to her clients.

851 South Coast Highway 101, Suite 300 • Encinitas, CA 92024
Cell: 760-716-6110 • SandyC4RE@gmail.com • www.SandyCanSellit.com

Real Estate Agent Award Winner



5
YEAR
WINNER



Marilyn Hanes

Realtor

- Over 25 years of real estate knowledge
- Opening San Diego's finest doors

It is an honor to once again receive the Five Star Real Estate Agent award, and I thank my clients for their recognition. It is my goal to provide personal service while using my negotiation skills and industry knowledge to meet my clients' needs. Whether buying or selling throughout San Diego County, you are in good hands.

16789 Bernardo Center Drive, Suite B • San Diego, CA 92128
Cell: 619-540-6750 • marilynhanes@gmail.com
www.marilynhanes.com

Real Estate Agent Award Winner



8
YEAR
WINNER

Town & Country Real Estate

Joan R. Gansert

Broker Associate, Seniors Real Estate Specialist®

- Takes pride in providing great service
- Meeting and exceeding your expectations
- Over 30 years of experience and results

It has been my pleasure to serve Ramona and the surrounding areas since 1983. I specialize in homes, condos, mobile homes and vacant land. I offer free staging and professional photography for each listing. For buyers, I diligently search for just the right property and help to negotiate just the right deal.

976 Main Street • Ramona, CA 92065
Direct: 760-518-2081 • joangansert@gmail.com
www.ramonarealestate.com

Real Estate Agent Award Winner



11
YEAR
WINNER



Lisa McAfee

Realtor, DRE 01464477

- Proud recipient of the Five Star Real Estate Agent award 11 years in a row

The majority of Lisa's business comes from referrals from her ecstatic clients. Her focus is on constantly serving her clients' needs, long after escrow closes. Whether you are thinking of buying or selling, call Lisa today!

Windermere Homes & Estates
16783 Bernardo Center Drive • San Diego, CA 92128
Cell: 858-243-3722 • Lisa@LisaMcAfee.com • LisaMcAfee.com

Real Estate Agent Award Winner



9
YEAR
WINNER



Kathy Huang

Realtor, CPA, e-PRO®

- Negotiation and contract expertise
- Fulfilling dreams and building wealth through real estate

Kathy utilizes her CPA and financial training to analyze and negotiate the best deal for her clients. As an experienced real estate investor herself, she has the expertise to help clients navigate the financial and contractual aspects of building, remodeling, purchasing and selling properties!

12636 High Bluff Drive, Suite 400 • San Diego, CA 92130
Phone: 858-692-8066 • Kathy@CoastalSDhomes.com
www.CoastalSDhomes.com

Real Estate Agent Award Winner



7
YEAR
WINNER



John R. Bassler

Senior Sales Executive

- 2008, 2009, 2015 – 2019 Five Star Real Estate Agent
- Representing buyers and sellers
- Relocation expertise

Thank you all for this recognition. My exceptional customer service is constructed from my ethical approach, professionalism and integrity. Whether you are looking to buy or sell a home, I look forward to working with you.

I sell San Diego sunshine!

123 Camino De La Reina, Suite 100 South • San Diego, CA 92108
Cell: 858-583-5157 • TeamBassler@yahoo.com
www.sunnysocal.com

Real Estate Agent Award Winner



10
YEAR
WINNER

Coldwell Banker West

Val O'Connor

Realtor, CNE, SFR®, CalBRE 01233012

Val O'Connor has earned the highest level of excellence for consulting buyers and sellers throughout San Diego County. Val O'Connor's brand name and excellent reputation is synonymous with Mount Helix, and the surrounding foothills of East County, where she has successfully specialized for 24 years! With an enthusiastic approach to real estate, she is well known for providing her clients with the finest quality of service and representation.

9555 Grossmont Summit Drive • La Mesa, CA 91941
Phone: 619-665-1865 • val@valoconnor.com
www.valoconnor.com

Real Estate Agent Award Winner



12
YEAR
WINNER



Kris Akagi

CalBRE 01935781

- Over 15 years of real estate experience
- Who you work with matters

I would like to say thank you to my clients, for your continued support, trust and 12th year of recognition with this award — I am truly honored. It is my commitment to you to have integrity, in-depth community and market knowledge and effective negotiation skills to successfully meet your real estate needs. I do care about and value every client relationship.

16783 Bernardo Center Drive • San Diego, CA 92128
Office: 858-487-5110 • Cell: 760-855-5281
krisakagirealty@gmail.com

Real Estate Agent Award Winner



10
YEAR
WINNER



Clinton Jones

Realtor, DRE 01982216

- 2019 Rising Star Real Estate Agent
- Providing seamless transactions
- San Diego native

I ventured into the real estate industry because I love the rewarding feeling of helping people. I will go above and beyond for my clients, whether they are buying or selling their home.

819 Anchorage Place, Suite 22 • Chula Vista, CA 91914
Phone: 619-797-0948 • clint@HSGteam.com
www.hsgsandiegorealty.com

Rising Star Real Estate Agent Award Winner

“Tell clients what they need to hear, not what they want to hear.”

— *Five Star award winner*



Kristen Wilson

Insurance Agent



Wilson Insurance Brokers

P.O. Box 181710
Coronado, CA 92178
Cell: 619-306-6253
Office: 619-876-5240
kristen@wilsoninsurancebrokers.com
www.wilsoninsurancebrokers.com

Where Integrity Begins

- Extensive coverage options
- Specializing in property and casualty insurance
- Small-business knowledge and experience
- Fourth-generation insurance agent

I will work to provide the best customer service, coverage and pricing for my clients and their specific needs. I realize in today's world of little interaction, it is important to have a relationship with my clients — and through that relationship, the ability to accurately account for their insurance needs. I look forward to continuing to help my clients as their insurance needs grow and change.

Home/Auto Insurance Professional Award Winner

To see the full list of winners, visit www.fivestarpromotional.com.

Real Estate Agents

All Areas

Rosamaria Acuña · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Page 10

Sherry Adams · HomeSmart Realty West

Gregg Alexander · RE/MAX

Rico Alexander · Pacifica Properties

Kaye Atkins · Realty ONE Group San Diego

John R. Bassler · Coldwell Banker Page 12

Tamara Bond · Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Cheryl Bray · Cedros Homes

Liliana Bristman · ERA Real Estate

Camille Bruno · Coldwell Banker

Nikki Butera · Windermere Homes & Estates

Paul Butler · Sold! The Butler Did It

Michael Chious · Urban Pacific San Diego Realty

Toni Church · Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Mayra Conde · RE/MAX

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San Diego
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The 15th annual San Diego Bay Wine + Food Festival gathered more than 11,000 foodies from around the country to Arrive at Awesome! Guests indulged in bites from San Diego's hottest restaurants and more than 200 wineries, breweries, and distilleries from around the world. The weeklong festival featured cooking classes, specialty wine dinners, and the iconic Grand Tasting held on the picturesque San Diego Bay. For more information, visit sandiegowineclassic.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRADLEY SCHWEIT





1. Mario Lopez, Carmen Rindfleisch 2. (Front) Barry Shelton, David Miles, Manuel Rodriguez, Christian Garcia, (Back) Jennifer Roane, Don Canteen, Mario Lopez, Jay Henslee, Robin Canteen, Shannon Walker, Leslie Miles 3. Steven Wistrich, Elizabeth Wistrich, Barbie Spinazzola, Dan Spinazzola

CREATING LEGENDS GALA

Hotel del Coronado

October 13, 2018

Over 250 guests came to help celebrate City Ballet of San Diego's 26th anniversary! Through the generosity of the many guests, City Ballet raised over \$235,000. This was the most successful gala to date, thus ensuring the ballet company will continue to present dance and education and outreach programs to over 200,000 children and patrons annually.

PHOTOS BY 123EVENTPHOTOGRAPHY.COM



San Diego
MAGAZINE

HAPPY *half* HOUR / PODCAST



A light, not-too-filling, fun half-hour chat on San Diego's food scene featuring
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San Diego
MAGAZINE

AGENDA



DANCE LIKE ALVIN'S WATCHING

Clear the highways. Following a five-week run at home in New York City, **ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER** is taking its 60th anniversary show on the road, with a two-night stop at Copley Symphony Hall March 26–27. The North American tour, named Ailey Ascending, brings new choreography to the group's repertoire, like world-premiere number *Lazarus*, a two-act ballet inspired by the racial inequality Ailey faced when founding the company six decades ago. Still rooted in merging modern and West African dance, the company has received the National Medal of Arts, been named a Cultural Ambassador to the World by Congress, performed in 71 countries, and recruited world-class dancers, some of whom (like Samantha Figgins, pictured left) have worked with the likes of Beyoncé.

Now that's some fancy footwork. —**SARAH PFLEDDERER**

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER March 26–27 Copley Symphony Hall, Downtown
alvinailey.org @alvinailey

36 THINGS
TO DO THIS
MONTH

WHERE TO
DINE OUT IN
SAN DIEGO

FROM THE
ARCHIVES:
THE PADRES
JOIN MLB, 1969



Sarah Brightman

MARCH

Arts + Culture Music + Movies Food + Drink Active + Outdoors Philanthropy

- 1** > Find your flow during the four-day **San Diego Yoga Festival** in Imperial Beach.
- > Classical crossover artist **Sarah Brightman** takes center stage at Viejas Arena.
- > See more than 55 acres of colorful blooms across

The Flower Fields at Carlsbad Ranch on opening day.

> Find inspiration for your next remodel at the three-day **Spring Home/Garden Show** at Del Mar Fairgrounds.

- 2** > Join Odesza and other electronic music artists for the two-day **CRSSD Festival** at Waterfront Park.
- > One-man show **David Burnham: Mostly Broadway**

takes audiences on a musical journey through the Great White Way at Moonlight Amphitheatre.

> Street performers from across the US showcase their talents for the weekend **Busker Festival** at Seaport Village.

> Learn coding, explore robotics through Lego, and listen to fireside chats with acclaimed scientists during

the nine-day **San Diego Festival of Science and Engineering** at Petco Park.

- 4** > Watch your favorite performers from hit TV show **Dancing with the Stars** take the stage at California Center for the Arts, Escondido.

- 5** > Rock band **Muse** stops at Pechanga Arena on their Simulation Theory World Tour.

- 6** > Singer-songwriter **Joe Jackson** belts out a sampling of his four decades of music at Balboa Theatre.
- > Cygnet Theatre puts on modern classic **Angels in America**, an odyssey through Reagan-era New York in the midst of the AIDS crisis (through 4/20).

- 7** > The 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing is the



theme of **San Diego Comic Fest**, held at Four Points by Sheraton San Diego (through 3/10).

8 > **The Joffrey Ballet** dazzles audiences with Justin Peck's *In Creases*, set to a live Philip Glass score, at the Civic Theatre.
> City Ballet presents three works by one of the 20th century's most renowned choreographers in **Balanchine Masterpieces**, at Spreckels Theatre for three days.

9 > Enjoy unlimited tastings from more than 100 breweries during **Best Coast Beer Fest** at Embarcadero Marina Park South.
> Listen to **Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 2** live at Copley Symphony Hall Saturday and Sunday, conducted by Atlanta Symphony Music Director Robert Spano.
> Ahead of St. Patrick's Day, Celtic band **The Irish Rovers** returns to Balboa Theatre.

10 > Groups from across the US and Mexico unite in Chula Vista's Bayside Park for the family-friendly

International Mariachi Festival

13 > Singer-songwriter **Gordon Lightfoot** brings folk-rock to Balboa Theatre on his 80 Years Strong Tour.
> Cuban jazz musicians **Alfredo Rodriguez & Pedrito Martinez** collaborate for an evening at UC San Diego's The Loft.

14 > Spend 10 days binge-watching the **San Diego Latino Film Festival** at AMC Fashion Valley and Digital Gym in North Park.
> Indulge for good at Options For All's **10th Annual Taste of Our Community** dinner fundraiser at Brick in Liberty Station, benefiting individuals with disabilities.

15 > Join the **Masters of Hawaiian Music** for island-inspired tunes at California Center for the Arts, Escondido.

16 > Bet on having a jolly good time at the **San Diego St. Patrick's Day Parade and Irish Festival** in Balboa Park.



> Gather your entourage and head to the **South Park Spring Walkabout** for shopping, entertainment, and special deals.
> Party like the Irish at **shamROCK**, a St. Patrick's Day celebration spanning six blocks of the Gaslamp Quarter.
> Internet sensation **Randy Rainbow** brings his political spoofs and song parodies to Balboa Theatre.

18 > Multinational operatic vocalist group **Il Divo** stops by Civic Theatre on their Timeless Tour.

21 > Former Beatle **Ringo Starr and His All Starr Band** bring down the house at Harrah's Resort Southern California.



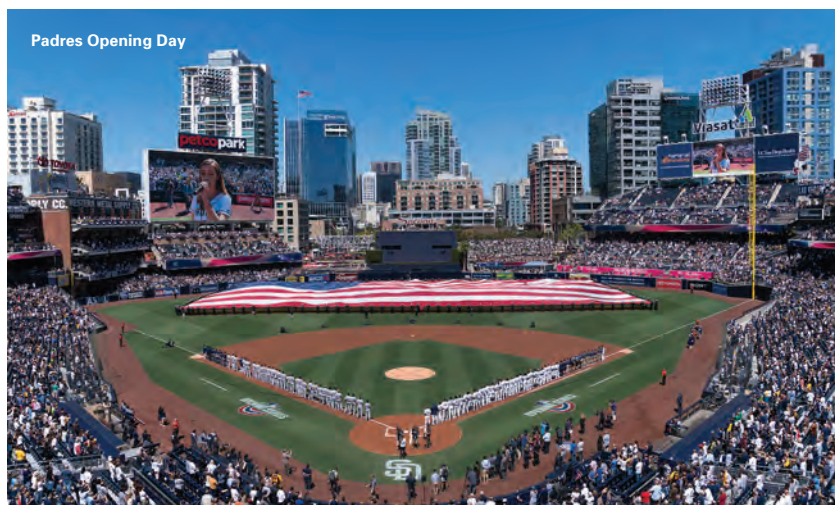
22 > New musical **Life After** at The Old Globe explores loss and love as a young girl struggles with accepting her father's death (through 4/28).

23 > Support the performing arts by attending the **La Jolla Playhouse Gala**, featuring a special concert by Tony Award nominee Ariana DeBose (*Summer: The Donna Summer Musical*).

28 > It's a pan-California rivalry at Petco Park when the **Padres Opening Day** game welcomes the San Francisco Giants.

29 > Expect singing and strumming as **Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain** hits the Balboa Theatre stage.

30 > Experience the native traditions of people from Guam and the Mariana Islands during the 10th annual **Chamorro Cultural Festival** at Cal State San Marcos.



Padres Opening Day

READY, SET, RUN!

March races in San Diego

MARDI GRAS 10K, 5K, & 1-MILE FUN RUN
March 3
Rancho Bernardo Park
themardigrasrun.com

ST. PATRICK'S DAY HALF MARATHON, 5K, & GREEN MILE
March 3
Downtown El Cajon
stpatrickshalf.com

COAST TO CREST 10K & 5K
March 9
San Dieguito River Park, Del Mar
enduranceraceseries.com

SAN DIEGO HALF MARATHON & PADRES 5K
March 10
Petco Park
sdhalfmarathon.com

ST. PATRICK'S DAY 10K
March 16
Mission Bay Park
kathyloperevents.com

THE SUPER RUN 5K
March 16
Embarcadero Marina Park North, Downtown
thesuperrun.com

TIP TOP RUN LEPRECHAUN DASH & BASH 10K & 5K
March 16
Agua Hedionda Lagoon, Carlsbad
aguahedionda.org

CAMO FOR A CAUSE 5K
March 17
NTC Park, Liberty Station
theunbattlproject.org

HOT CHOCOLATE 15K & 5K
March 24
Petco Park
hotchocolate15k.com

ENCINITAS HALF MARATHON & 5K
March 31
Moonlight State Beach
encinitashalfmarathon.com

SNOWCONE 5K & 1 MILE
March 31
Bayside Park, Chula Vista
snowcone5k.com

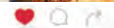
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Instagram your
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eat_whatcha_like
Draft South Mission >



Pair craft beer and pork tacos or mustard-dusted pretzel bites with an ocean view. Lunch and dinner daily, plus weekend brunch. 3105 Ocean Front Walk, Mission Beach, draftsandiego.com @draftsandiego \$-\$\$



thenerdiefoodie
House of Bao >



This farmers' market vendor serves bao buns with pork, chicken, tofu, or veggies. Hours vary. Locations in Hillcrest, Kearny Mesa, La Jolla, North Park, Ocean Beach, Otay Mesa, and Poway, houseofbaosd.com @housebaosd \$



bloodymaryobsessed
True Food Kitchen >



Look for meat, vegan, gluten-free, and dairy-free options co-created by celebrated integrative doctor Andrew Weil. Open daily. Locations in Mission Valley and La Jolla, truefoodkitchen.com @true_food_kitchen \$\$



mikel_anthony
Oh! Juice Cafe >



Oh! Juice highlights raw plants in its juices, bowls, smoothies, and more. Breakfast, lunch, and early dinner on weekdays. Locations in Carlsbad and Encinitas, ohjuicecleanse.com @ohjuiceco \$-\$\$



firstcomeslatte
Great Maple >



This retro-themed diner is big on big plates, like fried chicken with donuts and French toast piled high. Open daily, plus weekend brunch. Locations in Hillcrest and UTC, thegreatmaple.com @thegreatmaple \$\$

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San Diego
MAGAZINE

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ESTANCIA LA JOLLA HOTEL & SPA

Photo by
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Café 222



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AGENDA



megsmapsandmarvels
UnderBelly >



CH Projects (Ironside Fish & Oyster, Born & Raised, etc.) saw big success at their tiny Little Italy ramen project before expanding to North Park, with an expansive patio to boot. Beyond the traditional Japanese noodle soups—they offer a vegan version, too—UnderBelly serves yakitori, bao buns, and rice bowls. Lunch and dinner daily. 750 West Fir Street, Little Italy; 3000 Upas Street, North Park, godblessunderbelly.com @underbelly_sd \$\$





foodventureswithanna
Little Sakana Sushi Bar & Grill >



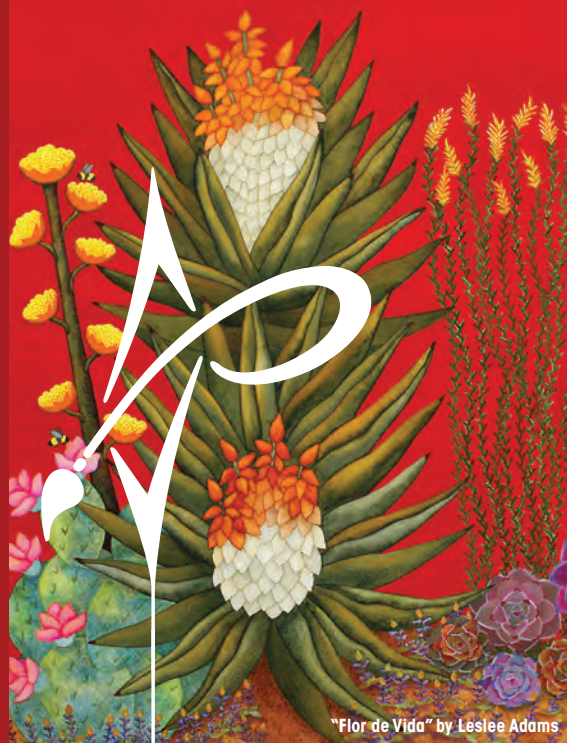
Whether you like them deep fried, baked, fresh, or sans rice, this new all-you-can-eat spot has a roll for every taste. The menu lists rules, like “no sharing with non AYCE guests,” and leftovers will incur a charge. If you want to up your unlimited game, they also offer AYCD (all you can drink), including hot sake and Japanese draft beer. Lunch and dinner daily. 8270 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Mira Mesa, littlesakana.com @littlesakanasushi \$\$\$-\$\$\$



eatwithchristine
Tacos el Gordo >

The family-owned taco business got its start in Tijuana in 1972 before opening in the South Bay 16 years later. They’ve since expanded to Las Vegas and are soon opening a downtown San Diego location, but their tacos—including the crowd favorite adobada, which has a separate ordering line—remains true to its street-style roots. *Locations in Chula Vista and Otay Mesa, tacoselgordobc.com @tacoselgordo_ \$-\$\$\$*

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“Flor de Vida” by Leslie Adams

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MARCH 1969

The First Inning

THIS YEAR MARKS HALF A CENTURY since the Padres entered the Major Leagues. Despite the milestones—Tony Gwynn, Trevor Hoffman, and hosting the 2016 All-Star Game—it hasn't all been peanuts and Cracker Jack. In our March 1969 issue, Ralph Trembley outlined how we almost didn't have a team. In "Bavasi-Ball Is in a Class By Itself," he opened with: "Major League status in any sport did not come easily to San Diego." The Pads had been in San Diego since 1936, but as a Pacific Coast minor league team. It took building a brand-new stadium in Mission Valley for them to finally be considered for an expansion team in the National League. San Diego was also trying to overcome "TV-market statistics and the damnably irritating New York image of this city as an appendage of Santa Barbara, Los Angeles or La Jolla (Easterners never quite remembered which)."

Padres President Emil "Buzzie" Bavasi was the man who convinced MLB to give us a team. As a GM, he had been a part of eight National League pennants and four world championships with the Dodgers in Brooklyn and in L.A. He was a "baseball entrepreneur extraordinaire, bosom friend to all the Beautiful People, and to just as many locker attendants, frankfurter salesmen and forcibly retired bookies." He understood how having a Major League team would not only benefit San Diego economically, but also help put it on

the map. "Don't forget, every day from the start of spring training on February 22 to the end of the season, San Diego datelines will appear in daily newspapers throughout the U.S."

In the article, very little is said about the actual team. At 28, the oldest player was outfielder Al "The Bull" Ferrara. According to the team's PR director, Bud Tucker, "The guy was a child prodigy, played piano at Carnegie Hall and all that. But he looks like a piano mover now."

The new franchise didn't lead with talent. "We don't have the real stars of baseball on our team," Bavasi told the magazine. "We must sell the idea of coming out to see [Willie] Mays, Ernie Banks, Bob Gibson, Don Drysdale, Hank Aaron, Orlando Cepeda and Roberto Clemente."

It was tough to make any grand predictions about how the Major League Padres would fare, but Bavasi did have positive things to say about the region.

"There's more pride here than anywhere I've ever lived. The city's been very fair to us and we're going to try to give them good baseball." We're proud to have been the home of the Padres for 50 years, and here's to 50 more. —ERIN MEANLEY GLENNY



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