



Best of LA MESA 2025

LA MESA COURIER

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS

An important part of what makes La Mesa special is the businesses — big, medium and small — that are owned and staffed by the families and people in this wonderful community we call home.

These individuals work hard, day in and day out, to provide great food, drink, arts, entertainment, retail shopping, medical services, law advice, repair services and much, much more to locals and those not from the area visiting these establishments.

One of the most exciting times of the year for us at La Mesa Courier is the unveiling of our “Best of La Mesa” issue, which puts a spotlight on those who are doing the very best in a wide

range of categories.

Making things better for individuals voting this year in the “Best of La Mesa” issue is our new bestoflamesa.voterfly.com.

The system allows for an easier voting process. Businesses can submit their brands online to be nominated, and voters take charge from there.

Speaking of taking charge, we’ve moved forward starting this month with a new design of the La Mesa Courier.

While the newspaper may look a little different, know that the dedication to covering topics of interest to La Mesa readers has not changed.

As part of not changing what we do,

the Best of La Mesa issue allows us to highlight all of the wonderful businesses in our city.

Each year, we ask the most loyal readers around to nominate what restaurants, entertainment venues, stylists, designers and other businesses and professionals stand out most to them.

Once again, we received hundreds of nominations from La Mesa residents eager to share their thoughts on the most deserving candidates. We tally the votes, compile a directory and send out the awards — many of which readers will see proudly displayed on the wall of restaurants and office.

Some of these businesses have been

there for La Mesa residents and out-of-town shoppers for decades.

Others have only just begun to make an impact on the community but have obviously caught the attention of local consumers by doing things the right way time and time again.

We encourage readers to hang on to the following Best of La Mesa section throughout the year.

It can be a handy companion for the next time you go in search of an optometrist, a car mechanic, a doctor, a Mexican dinner, a craft brewery or just a simple coffee with friends.

Congratulations to all winners and thank you for all you do for La Mesa!



Thank you for voting us

**Best Mexican, Best Fish Taco,
Best Patio Dining and
Best Sunday Brunch in La Mesa!**



*Mario's De La Mesa
Restaurant*

**(619) 461-9390
8425 La Mesa Blvd,
La Mesa, CA 91942**



Congratulations to the following businesses who were chosen by the readers of the La Mesa Courier.

The business categories were published in ballot form over a period of 6 weeks. Readers were asked to cast ballots for their favorite choices. This was no simple task! With more than 100 categories, our readers came through with overwhelming response. We wish to thank all the readers who took the time to recognize these local businesses

BEST ACCOUNTANT

- Tyson Abbo
- McRae Woodson & Associates, Inc.
- Carl Hakenjos & Co.

BEST ACUPUNCTURE

- Full Circle ACU
- Dr. Pier Paulo
- Joie de Vivre Acupuncture

BEST AHI POKE

- Konnichiwa Sushi & Bar
- Curbside Eatery
- Banbu Sushi Bar & Grill

BEST AMERICAN

- Johnny B's Burgers, Brews & Spirits
- Duke's Old Fashioned Onion Burgers
- Mastiff Kitchen La Mesa

BEST ANTIQUES

- La Mesa Antiques
- David A's Estate Antiques & Services

BEST APPETIZER

- Casa Gabriela
- Brigantine Seafood & Oyster Bar
- Pietro's Cucina Italiana

BEST ART GALLERY

- Porter Hall
- Foothills Art Association

BEST ATTORNEY

- Wellspring Law
- Family Law San Diego
- McGovern Law Group

BEST AUTO DEALERSHIP

- Carl Burger World

BEST AUTO REPAIR

- John's Automotive Care
- The Auto Center in La Mesa
- Evans Tire & Service Center

BEST BBQ

- Smokey and The Brisket BBQ
- I QUE BBQ
- West Coast Smoke & Tap House

BEST BAKERY

- Gold Coast Bagel Co
- La Mesa Bistro & Bakery
- Centifonti's Bar & Restaurant

BEST BANK

- Torrey Pines Bank
- U.S. Bank

BEST BAR

- Pete's Place
- The Hills Pub
- The Regal Bar

BEST BARBER

- Boulevard Barber & Shave
- Wise's Barber Shop
- Honor Among Thieves

BEST BEER SELECTION

- Pete's Place
- Coin Haus
- Johnny B's Burgers, Brews & Spirits

BEST BIKE SHOP

- Trek
- Holland Cycles

BEST BILLIARDS

- Pete's Place
- On Que Billiards
- Deano's Pub

BEST BOOK STORE

- Meet Cute Romance Bookshop
- Maxwell's House of Books
- Barnes & Noble

BEST BOUTIQUE

- Sara's Boutique
- Act II
- Hanger 94

BEST BREAKFAST

- Sheldon's Service Station

BEST LUNCH BOX

- La Mesa Bistro & Bakery

BEST BREWERY

- Helix Brewing Co.

BEST BRUNCH

- Casa Gabriela

BEST BURRITO

- Johnny B's Burgers, Brews & Spirits

BEST BURGER

- Duke's Old Fashioned Onion Burgers

BEST CAFE

- Sheldon's Service Station

BEST CAR DEALER

- Bob Stall

BEST CASH WASH

- Soapy Joes

BEST CASUAL DINING

- Pietro's Cucina Italiana

BEST CHIROPRACTOR

- Chiro & Coffee

BEST COCKTAILS

- Pete's Place

BEST COFFEE SHOP

- Public Square Coffee House

BEST COMPUTER REPAIR

- Tech 2U

BEST CONSIGNMENT/RESALE

- Act II

BEST CONSTRUCTION

- Grahovac Construction Company

BEST COSMETIC SERVICES

- Little Lash Shop

BEST CREDIT UNION

- California Coast Credit Union

BEST DAY SPA

- Spa Piel

BEST DELI

- Daisy Deli

BEST DENTIST

- La Mesa Dental Artistry

BEST DERMATOLOGIST

- Dr. Maki C. Goskowicz

BEST DESERTS

- Centifonti's Bar & Restaurant

BEST DINER

- Patty's Cafe

BEST DINNER

- Casa Gabriela

BEST DOWNTOWN

- Pietro's Cucina Italiana

BEST DRY CLEANER

- Lena's Alterations & Dry Cleaning

BEST ELECTRICIAN

- Kennedy Electric

BEST CHILD CARE

- JoyBabe Studio

BEST CHINESE

- Chopsticks Inn Restaurant

BEST CHIROPRACTIC

- Acru Health

BEST COCKTAILS

- Manning Chiropractic

BEST COFFEE SHOP

- Arcu Health

BEST COMPUTER REPAIR

- Tritech

BEST CONSIGNMENT/RESALE

- Looks Better on Me

BEST CONSTRUCTION

- Palm Construction

BEST COSMETIC SERVICES

- SD Aesthetics and Med Spa

BEST CREDIT UNION

- North Island Credit Union

BEST DAY SPA

- Millicent and Company

BEST DELI

- SD Aesthetics and Med Spa

BEST DENTIST

- Daisy Deli

BEST DERMATOLOGIST

- Mayer Dental

BEST DESERTS

- Centifonti's Bar & Restaurant

BEST DINER

- La Mesa Dental Artistry

BEST DOWNTOWN

- Great Smiles of La Mesa

BEST DRY CLEANER

- Maycer Dental

BEST DERMATOLOGIST

- Dr. Maki C. Goskowicz

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BEST DINER

- Patty's Cafe

BEST DOWNTOWN



**Thank you for voting us
Best Dentist in La Mesa!**
Grant Simpson, DMD



WE ARE 5 STARS ON YELP!

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- Emergency Dental Care



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8430 Lemon Ave
La Mesa, CA 91941
(619) 466-8363
lamesadentalartistry.com

GOLD WINNER LISTINGS:

Best Accountant

Tyson Abbo

Readers chose Tyson Abbo for his steady, practical approach to personal and small-business finances. He's known around La Mesa for taking the stress out of tax prep, explaining things in plain language and staying accessible year-round — not just during crunch time. Clients appreciate his accuracy, quick turnaround, and the way he helps them plan ahead rather than react. Whether someone needs help navigating new regulations, organizing books or looking at long-term strategy, Tyson has earned a solid reputation for trust and reliability.

9629 Grossmont Summit Dr, La Mesa
(619) 269-8190 | abbotax.com

Best Acupuncture

Full Circle Acupuncture

Acupuncture has been proven to improve mood, sleep, digestion, immunity and muscle recovery. It decreases stress, anxiety and pain. Full Circle Acupuncture specializes in being a guide to those searching to heal. They love working with patients who are just as passionate about improving their health. When work-

ing together, the healing journey can be much more profound.

7866 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(858) 882-7689 | fullcircleclinic.com

Best Ahi Poke

Konnichiwa Sushi & Bar

Konnichiwa Sushi & Bar earned top honors for its fresh, flavorful ahi poke that locals rave about. Their poke bowls stand out for clean cuts of fish, balanced marinades and generous portions that don't overpower the natural quality of the seafood. The team keeps things simple and consistent, which is exactly what readers appreciate. It's the kind of spot where La Mesa diners stop in for a quick bowl, enjoy a relaxed atmosphere and know they'll get the same great taste every time.

8350 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 460-8100 | konnichiwa-sushi.com

Best American Cuisine

Johnny B's Burgers, Brews & Spirits

Johnny B's is a longtime La Mesa favorite for classic American comfort food served without

Editor's note: Factual descriptions for sponsored guides were compiled with the help of artificial intelligence and then checked for accuracy by an editor.

the fuss. Readers love the juicy burgers, crispy wings, hearty sandwiches and the kind of pub-style plates that hit the spot any day of the week. The laid-back vibe, plenty of outdoor seating and a strong lineup of local brews make it an easy go-to for families and friends. It's the neighborhood place where the service is friendly, the portions are generous and the menu always delivers.

8393 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 464-2465 | johnnybs.com

Best Antiques

La Mesa Antiques

La Mesa Antiques continues to be a reader favorite for its curated mix of vintage finds, collectibles and décor pieces you won't see in big-box stores. The shop is known for its friendly group of vendors, each bringing a different style — from mid-century pieces to farmhouse accents and old-school curiosities. Locals enjoy wandering the aisles because the inventory changes often. It's a comfortable, welcoming stop for anyone who appreciates character, craftsmanship and a good treasure hunt.

4710 Palm Ave, La Mesa
(619) 462-2211 | lamesaantiques.com

Best Appetizer

Casa Gabriela

Casa Gabriela has become one of La Mesa's standout dining spots, and readers say the appetizers set the tone for the whole experience. From their fresh ceviches to flavorful street-style starters and shareable small plates, everything comes out with bold seasoning and thoughtful presentation. Guests like to settle in on the patio, order a round of starters and ease into a meal that's consistently high quality. It's the kind of place where the first bites are memorable enough to bring people back — which is why Casa Gabriela topped so many categories this year.

8384 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 303-0080 | casagabrielalamesa.com

Best Art Gallery

Porter Hall

Porter Hall has long been a creative anchor in La Mesa, and readers appreciate the way it showcases local artists in an inviting, down-to-earth setting. The gallery hosts rotating exhibits that highlight a mix of traditional and contemporary work, making every visit a little different.

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People enjoy the relaxed atmosphere, the chance to chat with artists during receptions and the feeling that this is a true community space supporting East County talent. It's an easy stop for anyone who enjoys discovering new art close to home.

4910 Memorial Dr, La Mesa
(619) 464-7167 | lamesarts.org

Best Attorney

Wellspring Law

Wellspring Law earned the confidence of La Mesa readers for its steady, client-first approach and clear communication. The firm is known for taking the time to understand each situation, offering practical guidance without the heavy legal jargon. Whether someone needs help with estate planning, business matters or navigating a stressful legal issue, the team is respected for being thorough, responsive and solution-driven. Clients appreciate the calm, professional support they receive from start to finish, which is why Wellspring Law rose to the top in this year's voting.

8080 La Mesa Blvd #103, La Mesa
(619) 431-1771 | wellspring.law

Best Auto Dealership

Carl Burger Dodge Chrysler

Jeep Ram World

Carl Burger offers a wide selection of new and used vehicles, including Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep and Ram models. Known for their excellent customer service, they provide expert auto repair, maintenance and financing options to meet your needs. Find the right automobile with the friendly team at Carl Burger of La Mesa.

8355 Hercules St, La Mesa
(619) 485-1485 | carlburger.com

Best Auto Repair Shop

John's Automotive Care

John's Automotive Care has built its reputation on honesty, skill and a genuine love for the craft. Owner John Eppstein has been drawn to engines since childhood, and that passion shows in every part of the shop's work. His team is known for clear communication, thorough diagnostics and a willingness to explain repairs without the jargon. With 11 service bays and a crew that treats each car like their own, they deliver dependable results and a customer experience that feels personal, not transactional.

7447 University Ave, La Mesa
(619) 461-3600
johnsautomotivecarelamesa.com

Best BBQ

Smokey and The Brisket BBQ

Smokey and The Brisket BBQ won over readers with its bold, smoky flavors and a menu built around slow-cooked comfort. The brisket is the star — tender, well-seasoned and sliced to perfection — but locals also rave about the ribs,

pulled pork and creative sides that feel like real backyard favorites. The atmosphere is relaxed and lively, making it an easy stop for families, groups and anyone craving a hearty plate done right. Consistency, generous portions and standout smokehouse craft helped this spot rise to the top.

4910 Memorial Drive, La Mesa
(619) 439-6544 | smokeyandthebrisket.com

more. A licensed barber and cosmetologist with more than two decades in the industry, she took over in 2021 and brought her own mix of skill, personality and easy humor to the chair. Regulars appreciate the sharp cuts, clean shaves and welcoming vibe that makes the shop feel like a comfortable neighborhood hangout. It's professional without being stiff, and fun without losing the quality customers expect.

8283 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 464-6500 | boulevardbarber.com

Best Beer Selection

Pete's Place

(See listing under Best Bar)

Best Bike Shop

Trek Bicycle La Mesa

Trek Bicycle La Mesa earned readers' votes for being the go-to spot for riders of all levels — from weekend cruisers to serious cyclists. The shop is known for its knowledgeable staff who genuinely enjoy helping people find the right fit, whether it's a new bike, an upgrade or a quick tune-up. Customers appreciate the no-pressure approach, solid repair work and the way the team takes time to explain options. It's a reliable neighborhood hub for anyone looking to keep their wheels rolling smoothly around East County.

8495 Fletcher Pkwy, La Mesa
(619) 668-8787 | trekbikes.com

Best Billiards

Pete's Place

(See listing under Best Bar)

Best Book Store

Meet Cute Romance Bookshop

Meet Cute Romance Bookshop charmed readers with its cozy, community-driven space dedicated entirely to romance novels — an uncommon find and a standout in the La Mesa scene. With two levels of books, frequent author events and a warm, welcoming ambiance, it's become a go-to for fans of the genre. Locals say the staff are friendly, knowledgeable and eager to help readers discover something new, whether they're longtime romance lovers or curious newcomers. The shop's growth and strong ties to the neighborhood helped it earn this honor.

8235 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 439-7707 | hello@meetcuteromancebookshop.com

Best Boutique

Sara's Boutique

Sara's Boutique earned top marks from readers for its thoughtful mix of clothing, accessories and gifts that feel both current and effortless. Shoppers like the relaxed, friendly vibe — the kind of place where you can browse at your own pace or get honest help finding something that fits just right. The selection leans stylish without being over the top, making it easy to pick up pieces that work for everyday wear or a night

out. Consistent service and a welcoming atmosphere helped this neighborhood favorite rise to the top.

8376 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 464-1714

Best Breakfast

Sheldon's Service Station

Sheldon's Service Station has become a breakfast staple in La Mesa, and part of its charm comes from the history behind the name. The café sits on the site of a 1940s gas station, and it leans into that retro, neighborhood feel with a warm, easygoing atmosphere. Readers love the consistently good breakfast plates — from scrambles and burritos to their popular avocado toast — along with a strong coffee bar that keeps mornings moving. The patio is always lively, the service is friendly, and the mix of heritage and comfort makes it a favorite spot to start the day.

8401 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 741-8276 | sheldonservice.com

Best Brewery

Helix Brewing Company

Helix Brewing Company is rooted in La Mesa's homebrewing culture, driven by science, adventure, and a love for great beer. Their approach is simple: brew with curiosity, push boundaries, and stay connected to the community that built them. Many of their ideas are sparked on ocean swims, trail runs, or time spent outdoors — little inspirations that shape each new release. The result is a lineup of beers that feel fresh, thoughtful, and always evolving. For anyone who loves a brew with personality and craft behind it, Helix delivers something a step above.

8101 Commercial St, La Mesa
(619) 741-8447 | drinkhelix.com

Best Brunch

Casa Gabriela

(See listing under Best Appetizer)

Best Burger

Johnny B's Burgers, Brews & Spirits

(See listing under Best American Cuisine)

Best Burrito

City Tacos Village Taqueria

City Tacos Village Taqueria won readers over with burritos that are big on flavor and never feel generic. Their fillings are thoughtfully seasoned, the tortillas are warm and sturdy and every burrito feels like it's made with real care — whether you're going classic or trying one of their creative twists. Locals appreciate the balance of freshness, bold sauces and generous portions that make it a reliable go-to any time of day. Add in the friendly counter service and relaxed vibe, and it's easy to see why La Mesa picked them as the best.

8325 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 466-7999 | citytacos.com



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Thank you!
LA MESA COURIER READERS!



ANDREA FLINT-GOGEK
REALTOR®

AARON DUGGAN
Broker/Owner

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Best Cafe

Sheldon's Service Station

(See listing under Best Breakfast)

Best Car Dealer

Bob Stall

Bob Stall Chevrolet continues to earn the trust of La Mesa readers with its straightforward service and long-standing local presence. Customers say the team makes the car-buying process easier — no heavy pressure, just clear information and a willingness to help people find what actually fits their needs. The dealership's service department also gets high marks for dependable work and friendly communication, which keeps folks coming back long after the sale. That mix of honesty, consistency and community roots helped Bob Stall rise to the top again this year.

7601 Alvarado Rd, La Mesa
(619) 512-5034 | bobstall.com

Best Car Wash

Soapy Joe's Car Wash

Soapy Joe's picked up the win thanks to its quick, convenient washes and friendly service that keeps drivers coming back. Readers like that it's easy to roll in, get a thorough clean, and be back on the road in minutes. The unlimited wash memberships are a big perk, especially for commuters who want to keep their cars looking sharp without spending a fortune. The team keeps the place running smoothly, the equipment is reliable and the whole experience feels simple and upbeat — exactly what people want from their neighborhood car wash.

5322 Jackson Dr, La Mesa
(619) 462-7360 | soapyjescarwash.com

Best Casual Dining

Pietro's Cucina Italiana

Pietro's Cucina Italiana is one of those easygoing neighborhood restaurants where comfort food is the whole point. The kitchen leans into classic Italian favorites — rich sauces, handmade-feeling pastas and generous portions. Regulars talk about the warm garlic bread, the familiar faces on staff and the steady quality that hasn't wavered over the years. It's a relaxed, come-as-you-are spot that works just as well for a quick weeknight dinner as it does for sharing a bottle of wine with friends.

8378 Parkway, La Mesa
(619) 464-1162 | pietros cucina italiana.com

Best Child Care

JoyBabe Studio

JoyBabe Studio stands out for its warm, creative approach to early childhood care. Families love the way this studio blends play, art, movement and gentle structure to help little ones learn and grow at their own pace. The staff brings a calm, nurturing energy, creating a space where kids feel safe, engaged and genuinely excited to show up each day. From hands-on activities to imag-

inative free play, everything is designed to spark curiosity and confidence. It's a thoughtful, joyful environment that parents trust and children look forward to.

5208 Jackson Dr, La Mesa
(619) 289-8565 | joybabestudio.com

Best Chinese Cuisine

Chopsticks Inn Restaurant

Chopsticks Inn has earned a loyal following for its comforting, familiar dishes and generous portions that always hit the spot. The menu offers everything from classic stir-fries and fried rice to house specialties that regulars swear by, all served with the kind of consistency people count on. Guests appreciate the quick service, relaxed setting and flavors that are bold without being overly heavy. It's the reliable neighborhood spot where you can share plates with friends, grab takeout on a busy night or settle into a cozy booth for a satisfying meal.

8687 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 466-4470

Best Chiropractor

Chiro & Coffee

Chiro & Coffee wins over newcomers before they even step inside — the name alone says a lot about the relaxed, welcoming vibe. This boutique-style practice combines quality chiropractic care with the comfort of a neighborhood café atmosphere. Patients appreciate the personalized adjustments, thoughtful explanations and the sense that nothing is rushed. It's a place where people feel taken care of, not just treated. The warm, modern space and friendly approach make appointments something to look forward to rather than put off, which helped this unique clinic rise to the top.

8380 Center Dr #C, La Mesa
(619) 800-5816 | chiroandcoffee.com

Best Cocktails

Pete's Place

(See listing under Best Bar)

Best Coffee Shop

Public Square Coffee House

Public Square Coffee House has grown into a true community hub, thanks to its bright, welcoming atmosphere and a coffee program that shows real craft. The baristas take their espresso seriously, but the vibe stays friendly and relaxed — the kind of place where people settle in with a laptop, meet a friend or grab a quick latte on the way to work. Readers love the creative seasonal drinks, solid food menu and the feeling that everyone is genuinely happy to be there. It's warm, lively and consistently one of the busiest corners in town.

8278 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 777-8273 | publicsquare.coffee



Thank you La Mesa!
...for Voting for John's Automotive Care Best of La Mesa!

3 Locations to Serve You!

La Mesa
7447 University Ave., La Mesa
619-461-3600

San Diego
6267 Riverdale St., San Diego
619-280-9315

El Cajon
10813 Airport Dr., El Cajon
619-596-0011

www.JohnsAutomotiveCareLaMesa.com



From our team we would like to thank the fine folks of La Mesa for voting us Best Burgers and Best American Food 3 Years in a Row!

Come by and find out why we are the BEST!



5020 Baltimore Dr. La Mesa
619-439-6177
Open Everyday 11AM - 9PM
dukesonionburger.com

Best of LA MESA
2025

LA MESA COURIER

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Thank you La Mesa!

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La Mesa, CA 91942

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Best Computer Repair

Tech 2U

Tech 2U is a trusted leader in computer repair, proudly serving San Diego for over a decade. Known for exceptional customer service and maintaining top BBB ratings, Tech 2U offers free diagnostics, virus removal and hardware upgrades for both homes and businesses. Their team of expert technicians can handle any issue, whether in-shop, on-site or via remote support. Stop by for a free checkup or consultation today!

6169 Lake Murray Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 345-8324 | tech2u.com

Best Consignment / Resale

Act II

Act II has become a favorite stop for treasure hunters who love the thrill of finding something stylish, unique and gently loved. The shop is known for its well-curated racks — a mix of contemporary pieces, quality basics and the occasional standout designer item that feels like a true score. Shoppers appreciate the friendly help, fair pricing and the fun of discovering inventory that changes daily. It's the kind of boutique where you walk in "just to look" and walk out with a new favorite outfit you didn't know you needed.

8360 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 698-2392 | myactii.com

Best Construction

Grahovac Construction Co.

Grahovac Construction Company earned top honors for its solid craftsmanship and long-standing reputation for doing things the right way. The team is known for tackling everything from remodels to full custom builds with a steady, detail-forward approach. Clients appreciate the clear communication, organized timelines and the sense that the crew takes real pride in every phase of a project. Their work has a clean, lasting quality that homeowners notice — the kind that makes people recommend them to friends without hesitation. Reliability and skill are what set this company apart.

8418 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 466-6693 | grahovac.com

Best Cosmetic Services

Little Lash Shop

Little Lash Shop earned its win by creating a space that feels both polished and personal. Clients love the calm, spa-like vibe and the way the team pays close attention to detail — whether it's classic lashes, volume sets, lifts or brows. The technicians take time to understand each client's style, so the results look natural, not overdone. Regulars say appointments feel un-rushed and relaxing, and the work holds up beautifully between visits. It's a boutique studio with a loyal following, known for skill, consistency and a welcoming touch.

8356 Allison Ave, La Mesa
(619) 567-0606 | littlelashshop.com

Best Credit Union

California Coast Credit Union

California Coast Credit Union stands out for its member-first approach and friendly, down-to-earth service. People appreciate how easy it is to get personal guidance on everything from everyday banking to auto loans and refinancing — without the hassle or pressure that often comes with larger institutions. The team is known for being responsive, clear and genuinely helpful, which makes financial decisions feel a lot less overwhelming. With solid digital tools, competitive rates and a commitment to local service, it's no surprise this credit union earned top recognition.

8002 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(858) 495-1600 | calcoastcu.org

Best Day Spa

Spa Piel

Spa Piel brings a calm, restorative feel that keeps guests coming back whenever they need a reset. The space is warm and serene, and the team is known for treatments that genuinely melt stress — from facials and massage to body therapies that feel customized rather than routine. Regulars say the estheticians take time to understand skin concerns, offer thoughtful guidance and create an experience that feels personal from start to finish. It's a peaceful escape tucked right into the neighborhood, perfect for anyone wanting a little pampering done well.

8291 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 952-3861 | spapiel.com

Best Deli

Daisy Deli

Daisy Deli wins over guests with its simple formula: fresh ingredients, big flavor and sandwiches that feel like they're made with real care. The menu covers all the classics — piled-high cold cuts, warm melts, crisp veggies and house touches that keep regulars loyal. It's the kind of spot where lunchtime lines move fast, the staff knows many customers by name and everything tastes just as good on the tenth visit as it did on the first. Easy, consistent and always satisfying, Daisy Deli earned its place at the top.

8396 Parkway Dr, La Mesa
(619) 303-0943 | daisydeldis.com

Best Dentist

La Mesa Dental Artistry

La Mesa Dental Artistry earned high praise for its modern approach to care and the calm, welcoming atmosphere patients notice right away. The team focuses on comfort as much as quality — from gentle cleanings to cosmetic work and restorative treatments that are explained clearly and never rushed. Patients appreciate the updated technology, thoughtful follow-up and the feeling that every visit is tailored to their needs rather than pushed through a routine. It's a practice built on trust, clear communication and steady hands,

which is why it rose to the top this year.

8430 Lemon Ave, La Mesa
(619) 466-8363
lamesadentalartistry.com

Best Dermatologist

Dr. Maki C. Goskowicz

Dr. Maki C. Goskowicz has built her reputation on a mix of advanced training, thoughtful care and a genuine interest in helping patients feel confident in their skin. A Stanford graduate with a dermatology residency completed at UCSD — where she also served as chief resident — she brings both expertise and a steady, reassuring approach to every visit. Patients trust her for everything from general dermatology to subtle, non-surgical cosmetic treatments. Her precision with injectables and her skill with laser rejuvenation have earned her a loyal following that spans generations.

8860 Center Dr #300, La Mesa
(619) 462-1670 | grossmontdermatology.com

Best Desserts

Centifonti's Bar & Restaurant

Centifonti's has long been a sweet spot for anyone with a dessert craving. The family-owned restaurant, serving the community since 2005, is known for its generous homemade treats — from classic Italian favorites to indulgent American-style sweets. Guests love finishing a meal with something fresh from their pastry case or stopping in just for dessert paired with one of their 25 craft beers or a cocktail from the full bar. The atmosphere is lively and friendly, and the menu keeps locals coming back for their next sugar fix.

(619) 461-4434 | 8365 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
centifontis.com

Best Diner

Patty's Cafe

Patty's Café is named for its founder, Patricia "Patty" Rodriguez, who started her career as a waitress long before opening the diner in 2012. That personal history shows in the warm, familiar feel of the place — friendly service, steady comfort food and the sense that everyone's welcome at the table. Regulars swear by the crispy hash browns, hearty breakfasts and classic lunches served without fuss. Coffee refills are constant, portions are generous and the vibe is exactly what a neighborhood diner should be.

6155 Lake Murray Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 462-1922

Best Dinner

Casa Gabriela

(See listing under Best Appetizer)

Best Dispensary

Wellgreens

Wellgreens earns high marks for its clean, modern layout and a staff that genuinely knows their

stuff. Shoppers like that it's easy to navigate — clear categories, helpful recommendations and no pressure to rush. Whether someone is looking for edibles, flower, vapes or wellness-focused products, the team takes time to match people with what actually fits their needs. The consistency, fair pricing and relaxed atmosphere make it a favorite stop for both newcomers and seasoned customers. It's a polished, friendly shop that keeps people coming back.

7926 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 91945
wellgreens.com | (619) 403-1783

Best Doctor

Dr. Anna Garcia

Dr. Anna Garcia is known for her warm bedside manner and the kind of clear, patient communication that puts people instantly at ease. Patients appreciate that she listens first, explains without overwhelm and treats every visit as a real conversation rather than a rushed appointment. Her approach blends practical medical care with genuine compassion, which has helped her build long-term relationships with families across generations. Whether it's preventive care or tackling ongoing health concerns, she's the doctor people trust to guide them with steadiness and care.

5525 Grossmont Center Dr, La Mesa
(858) 499-2711 | sharp.com/doctors

Best Donuts

BomBom Bakehouse

Bombom Bakehouse has become a local favorite thanks to its creative pastries and the kind of fresh-from-the-oven aroma that pulls you in before you reach the door. Their menu changes often, but everything — from croissant-style treats to rich specialty cakes — shows real skill and a playful approach to flavor. Each item feels handcrafted, not mass-produced, and the staff's warmth adds to the charm. It's the perfect stop for a morning pick-me-up, an afternoon indulgence or a box of sweets worth gifting.

Mesa Point Ter, San Diego, 92154
(619) 639-5675

Best Dry Cleaner

Lena's Alterations & Dry Cleaning

Lena's is the kind of dry cleaner people stick with for years because the work is consistently sharp and the service feels genuinely personal. Customers rely on the precise cleaning, careful pressing and the extra attention given to delicate fabrics or tricky stains. The alterations side is just as strong — hemming, tailoring, repair and little fixes that make clothes fit and feel better. Lena and her team are known for quick turnaround times and a friendly, no-stress approach that keeps their shop a trusted stop for wardrobe upkeep.

7763 University Ave, La Mesa
(619) 698-1325

Best Electrician

Kennedy Electric

Kennedy Electric earns high marks for its steady workmanship and the kind of professionalism that makes electrical projects feel manageable instead of stressful. The crew is known for arriving on time, keeping work areas tidy and explaining every step so customers always know what's happening. From simple repairs to major upgrades, they bring a level of care and clarity that builds real trust. It's dependable, straightforward service from people who take pride in doing the job right.

(619) 464-6568
tomkennedyelectric.com

Best Financial Planner

Edward Jones

Donaven A. Yousif

Donaven A. Yousif brings a thoughtful, whole-picture approach to financial planning that clients really appreciate. With experience spanning personal banking, business banking and mortgage lending, he understands how all the pieces of someone's financial life connect. His guidance focuses on long-term stability — building strategies that protect against surprises while planning for future goals. Donaven often collaborates with CPAs and attorneys to make sure estates and legacies are well supported, giving clients a sense of clarity and confidence

about their next steps.

9340 Fuerte Dr Suite 300A, La Mesa
(619) 463-0024 | edwardjones.com/us-en/financial-advisor/donaven-yousif

Best Fine Dining

Casa Gabriela

(See listing under Best Appetizer)

Best Fish Taco

City Tacos Village Taqueria

(See listing under Best Burrito)

Best Florist

The Floral Craft

The Floral Craft wins over customers with arrangements that feel genuinely artistic rather than predictable. Their style leans fresh and modern — thoughtful color palettes, interesting textures and blooms that look hand-selected instead of pulled from a standard template. Whether it's a simple bouquet or a full event order, the designs have a personal touch that makes them stand out. People appreciate the friendly guidance, creative instincts and the way every arrangement feels made with intention. It's a shop known for turning flowers into something memorable.

8201 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 467-7049 | thefloralcraft.com



Best Bar	Gold
Best Billiards	Gold
Best Cocktails	Gold
Best Sports Bar	Gold
Best Beer Selection	Gold

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Pete's Place 8330 La Mesa Blvd La Mesa, CA 91942 6194649535

Best Furniture Shuwee

Their tagline is "Fine, Fun, Furnishings," reflecting their commitment to curating items that embody this philosophy. They take pride in offering a unique mix of merchandise that stands out in today's market. From their family to yours, the Nevilles put love and hard work into selecting quality, eclectic items for their store. Judi and Will Nevilles dreamed of opening this store for more than 20 years but waited until 2019. This is a true family endeavor, with kids, grandkids and great-grandkids all pitching in. The store offers a variety of new and resale furniture from different periods and styles, along with a large selection of accessories and art. As for the name "Shuwee," it's an expression that's been part of their family for decades, used to describe things they love, like or are unsure about — all summed up in one word.

7735 University Ave, La Mesa
(619) 439-2412 | shopshuwee.com

Best Garden Supply Dixieline Lumber

Dixieline Lumber is a go-to spot for homeowners and gardeners who want quality materials and solid advice. Their team is known for being helpful and informed, taking the time to guide customers through projects big or small. Along with a full lumberyard, they offer garden essentials, outdoor materials, and custom cutting and milling when needed. It's a place where you can plan, pick up supplies, and get expert input all in one stop. With reliable delivery options, Dixieline makes home and garden projects easier from start to finish.

8372 Center Drive, La Mesa
(619) 465-4242 | dixieline.com

Best General Contractor Kitchen Plus

Kitchen Plus has built its reputation on clean craftsmanship and a knack for transforming kitchens and living spaces without unnecessary stress for the homeowner. Clients appreciate the organized process — clear timelines, steady communication, and a team that's both skilled and easy to work with. Their designs balance function and style, whether it's a full remodel or a thoughtful update that makes a home feel more livable. What stands out most is the consistent attention to detail, from the first walk-through to the final finishing touches.

7943 University Ave, La Mesa
kitchenplus.com | (619) 466-5100

Best Gift Shop The Jackalope

The Jackalope is one of those delightfully quirky shops where you walk in expecting to browse and end up finding the perfect gift you didn't know existed. The name fits the vibe — a little whimsical, a little unexpected and full of person-

ality. Shelves are packed with fun, creative items: artisan goods, clever cards, small-batch candles, local makers and a rotating mix of treasures that keep the shop feeling fresh. Shoppers love the relaxed atmosphere and the joy of discovering something new every visit. It's a go-to spot for gifts with character.

8374 Allison Ave, La Mesa
(619) 439-2657 | thejackalope.art

Best Greek Petrino's Greek Restaurant

This Greek restaurant is not an Americanized eatery. If you'd like to experience traditional Greek food and recipes that go back generations — this is the place to go. You'll enjoy food that's authentic and homemade. They serve dishes that have come straight from family favorite recipes. It's so good you may want to break a plate and dance!

8302 Parkway Dr, La Mesa
greekrestaurantlamesa.com
(619) 741-7721

Best Gym/Workout Studio

Fit4Mom La Mesa + Lake Murray

Fit4Mom La Mesa + Lake Murray stands out because it delivers more than workouts — it builds a real sense of community. Moms come for fitness, but they stay for the support, friendships and encouragement that carry well beyond class time. The instructors keep things upbeat and approachable, whether it's a stroller-friendly session for new moms or a higher-intensity class for those ready to push a little harder. Every workout meets women right where they are, creating a space that feels positive, empowering and genuinely fun to return to. Location varies throughout La Mesa & Lake Murray

7001 Murray Park Dr, La Mesa
(858) 051-1470 | fit4mom.com/La-Mesa-Lake-Murray

Best Hair Salon Honey & Hive

Honey & Hive has a way of making a salon visit feel like a treat rather than an errand. The space is warm and modern, and the stylists bring a calm confidence that instantly puts clients at ease. Whether it's a fresh cut, lived-in color or a full transformation, they listen closely and deliver results that feel natural and flattering — never forced. People love the attention to detail, the thoughtful product recommendations and the relaxing vibe that makes you want to linger a little longer. It's a salon that feels genuinely invested in helping you look and feel your best.

8333 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 456-8333 | honeyandhivesalon.com

Best Happy Hour Casa Gabriela

(See listing under Best Appetizers)

Best Hardware Store La Mesa Lumber

La Mesa Lumber has that rare mix of old-school service and real know-how that keeps DIYers and contractors coming back. Instead of wandering huge aisles on your own, you'll find staff who actually listen, ask the right questions and point you to the exact product or material you need. The yard is well stocked, the prices are fair and the help is hands-on — whether you're tackling a small home project or planning something bigger. It's the kind of dependable, community-rooted hardware store people trust.

8255 University Ave, La Mesa
(619) 466-0511 | lamesalumber.com

Best Health Food Store

Frazier Farms

Founded in 1971, Frazier Farms has grown into a trusted health food store known for offering high-quality products at competitive prices. Originally started by Bill Frazier, the business was passed down to Norman Frazier, who continued the family's commitment to healthy, value-driven food. With a legacy spanning decades, Frazier Farms remains dedicated to serving the community with the finest natural and organic products.

8401 Fletcher Pkwy, La Mesa
(619) 309-4024 | frazierfarmsmarket.com

Best Home Care/Caregiver All Heart Home Care

All Heart Home Care is dedicated to providing compassionate, high-quality care for senior clients, treating them with the warmth and respect of family. Their caregivers specialize in Parkinson's, hospice and Alzheimer's care, ensuring that seniors can remain safe, healthy and comfortable at home. Families trust All Heart Home Care to brighten their loved ones' days and provide the personalized support needed for a better quality of life. This in-home care is nice option for loved ones.

7877 Parkway Dr Suite 2C, La Mesa
(619) 736-4677 | allhearthomecare.com

Best Hospital

Sharp Grossmont Hospital

Sharp Grossmont Hospital has long been a cornerstone of local health care, offering both advanced medical expertise and the kind of compassionate support people remember. As the region's largest facility, it combines state-of-the-art technology with a team that never loses sight of the human side of healing. Patients and families appreciate the clear communication, steady guidance and genuine empathy that carry them through even the most stressful moments. Whether it's emergency care, specialized treatment or long-term support, the hospital's commitment to excellence is felt at every step.

5555 Grossmont Center Dr, La Mesa
(619) 740-6000 | sharp.com





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5575 Baltimore Dr. #112 La Mesa

Best Hot Wings Johnny B's Burgers, Brews & Spirits

Johnny B's has become the go-to spot for wings that hit all the right notes — crispy on the outside, tender inside and sauced with just the right kick. Their flavor lineup keeps things interesting, but it's the consistency that keeps people coming back. Whether you're watching a game, grabbing a casual dinner or meeting friends for a brew, a plate of wings always feels like the right call here. Add in the lively patio, friendly crew and cold beer on tap, and you've got a neighborhood classic that never disappoints.

8393 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 464-2465 | johnnybs.com

Best Hotel Holiday Inn Express

Holiday Inn Express offers the kind of stay travelers genuinely appreciate — clean, modern rooms, a friendly team and the small conveniences that make a trip feel easy. Guests like the dependable comfort: cozy beds, quiet spaces and a hot breakfast that's actually worth getting up for. Its location makes it an ideal home base for visiting family, business trips or exploring nearby attractions, and the service stays consistently warm and helpful. It's a straightforward, comfortable hotel that leaves people feeling well taken care of.

8000 Parkway Dr, La Mesa (619) 698-7747
lihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/la-mesa/sanpd/hoteldetail

Best Ice Cream/Frozen Yogurt Golden Spoon

Golden Spoon has been winning hearts for years, and let's be honest any place confident enough to name itself after the utensil of champions better deliver. And it does. Their frozen yogurt is famously creamy, never icy, and the rotating lineup of flavors keeps regulars guessing what's next. Whether you're a purist with a single swirl or a kid-at-heart building a mountain of toppings, it's the kind of treat that feels both nostalgic and just plain fun. One spoonful and

you get why this spot continues to shine.

5640 Lake Murray Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 303-3838 | goldenspoon.com

Best Indian Himalayan Cuisine

Himalayan Cuisine keeps diners coming back with rich, layered flavors and dishes that feel warm and comforting from the first bite. The menu ranges from classic curries and tandoori specialties to momos and regional favorites that showcase the depth of Himalayan cooking. Regulars rave about the balance of spices — bold but never overwhelming — and the way every dish tastes freshly prepared. The staff is welcoming, the portions generous, and the aromas alone could convince anyone to stay. It's an inviting spot that turns first-time visitors into loyal fans.

7918 El Cajon Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 461-2503 | himalayanlamesa.com

Best Insurance Broker Webster Insurance

Webster Insurance has built a reputation on trust — the kind that comes from really understanding clients and treating their needs like a true partnership. Their team brings deep industry knowledge and a steady, professional approach that helps people feel confident about the decisions they're making. Whether it's protecting a business, a home or everything in between, they take the time to explain options clearly and tailor coverage without the pressure. Clients appreciate the integrity and reliability behind every conversation, which is why so many stick with them year after year.

8315 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 433-3801 | websterinsur.com

Best Interior Design Advantage Design Partners

Advantage Design Partners brings a polished, thoughtful touch to every space they take on. Their team is known for listening closely, understanding how people actually live and then shaping rooms that feel both functional and beautifully personal. From full-home redesigns to focused updates, they balance style with prac-

ticality — smart layouts, cohesive palettes and details that make a home feel inviting rather than overdone. Clients appreciate the clear communication and the creativity that turns ideas into spaces they genuinely love coming home to.

8341 Lemon Ave, La Mesa
(619) 460-5345 | advantagedesignpartners.com

Best Irish Pub Hooleys Public House

Enjoy authentic Irish pub food and drinks at Hooleys Public House at the Grossmont Center in La Mesa. Hooleys Public House is a family-run business built on Irish "fayre" and great beer! The pub goes above and beyond with its scratch kitchen, which turns out delicious items such as fish and chips, Irish stew and its famous corned beef. The full bar offers whiskey and Irish beers, as well as wines and craft beers on tap. With a family-friendly atmosphere, excellent customer service and private dining rooms, Hooleys Public House is ideal for a party or special events.

5500 Grossmont Center Dr. #247, La Mesa
(619) 713-6900 | hooleys.com

Best Italian Cuisine Pietro's Cucina Italiana

(See listing under Best Casual Dining)

Best Japanese Konnichiwa Sushi & Bar

(See listing under Best Ahi Poke)

Best Jeweler & Boutique You Jewelers

You Jewelers & Boutique in San Diego is a trusted expert in purchasing precious metals, diamonds, timepieces, coins and more. Their certified representatives, trained by the Gemological Institute of America (GIA), offer detailed verbal appraisals and immediate compensation for items such as antique engagement rings and luxury timepieces. Known for exceptional service and expertise, You Jewelers ensures clients receive answers to all their questions. Schedule an appointment today for personalized, profes-

sional assistance.

6193 Lake Murray Blvd, Ste E, La Mesa
(619) 303-2172 | youjewelers.com

Best Juice/Juice Bar

Frazier Farms

(See listing under "Best Health Food")

Best Live Music

La Mesa Wine Works

La Mesa Wine Works has become one of those spots where the music feels just as inviting as the wine. Their live shows bring in talented local musicians who set the perfect tone — relaxed, soulful and easy to enjoy with a glass in hand. The space itself lends to the atmosphere: warm lighting, friendly staff and a crowd that's there to genuinely listen. Whether it's acoustic sets, upbeat weekend performances or special events, the winery turns an ordinary evening into something a little more memorable.

8167 Center St, La Mesa
(619) 741-0700 | lamesawineworks.com

Best Live Theater

Peter Pan Junior Theater Shop

Peter Pan Junior Theater Shop has been inspiring young performers — and delighting audiences — for decades. This cherished youth theater program is known for its polished productions, imaginative staging and the kind of heartfelt performances that remind you why live theater matters. Families love watching local kids grow in confidence, talent and teamwork as they bring classic stories to life on stage. The energy is infectious, the community support is strong and every show feels like a celebration of creativity. It's a true gem that keeps the magic of theater alive for the next generation.

4200 Parks Ave, La Mesa
(619) 589-9935 | ppjt.com

Best Local Attractions

La Mesa Village Farmers Market

The La Mesa Village Farmers Market is one of those community gatherings that feels good the moment you step into it. The streets fill with the

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smell of fresh produce, baked goods, flowers and small-batch foods you can't resist sampling. Local growers, artisans and food vendors bring a lively mix that keeps every visit a little different. Families stroll, neighbors mingle and musicians add to the atmosphere, making it as much a social stop as a shopping trip. It's a weekly tradition that celebrates the best of local flavor and community spirit. Mark your calendar for Thursdays, 3-7 p.m.

**La Mesa Blvd between Spring St. & 4th St.
(949) 767-7834 | lamesavillageassociation.org**

Best Locksmith Adams Locksmithing

Adams Locksmithing is the kind of reliable, no-nonsense service people are grateful to have on speed dial. Whether it's rekeying a home, fixing a stubborn lock or helping someone out of an "I-swear-I-just-had-my-keys" emergency, they show up quickly and get the job done right. Customers appreciate the honesty in their pricing, the steady workmanship and the calm, friendly attitude that makes stressful moments feel manageable. It's a trusted local shop that keeps homes and businesses secure with skill and professionalism.

**7433 University Ave, La Mesa
(619) 772-5776**

Best Lunch City Tacos Village Taqueria

(see listing under "Best Burrito")

Best Manicure/Pedicure Just Polished

Just Polished is a cozy, welcoming nail studio where quality and care come first. Their team takes a thoughtful approach to every service, focusing on clean techniques, long-lasting results, and a relaxing guest experience. Whether it's a quick refresh or a more detailed treatment, they make sure each visit feels personal. Locals appreciate the consistency, friendly atmosphere, and the way the staff pays attention to the small details that matter. It's the kind of neighborhood spot people return to again and again.

4697 Date Ave, La Mesa (619) 957-8157

Best Massage Feed Your Kneads Massage & Body

Feed Your Kneads Massage & Body wins people over with its warm, personalized approach to healing and relaxation. The name may get your attention, but it's the experience that keeps clients returning — thoughtful therapists who listen, adjust pressure with care and tailor each session to exactly what your body needs that day. Whether it's deep-tissue work, targeted pain relief or a calming reset, the treatments feel intentional rather than routine. The studio has a peaceful, grounded vibe that makes you exhale the moment you walk in.

**8119 La Mesa Blvd #305, La Mesa
(619) 639-0923 | feedyourkneads.com**

Best Mediterranean Vine Ripe Market

Vine Ripe Market is a foodie favorite for anyone craving bold Mediterranean flavors and hard-to-find specialty items. The moment you walk in, you're met with the aroma of fresh breads, grilled meats, warm spices and prepared dishes that taste like they came straight from someone's family kitchen. Their deli counter is the real star — overflowing with kebabs, shawarma, salads, dips and baked goods that locals grab for quick lunches or effortless dinners. It's the kind of market where you plan to "pick up one thing" and leave with a bag full of delicious discoveries.

**8191 Fletcher Pkwy, La Mesa
(619) 462-7800 | vineripefoods.com**

Best Mexican Casa Gabriela

(See listing under Best Appetizer)

Best New Business Shaina Speaks Therapy & Coaching, Inc.

Shaina Speaks Therapy & Coaching has quickly become a welcoming haven for anyone looking for clarity, confidence and real support. Shaina's style is warm and relatable — she listens deeply, asks thoughtful questions and offers guidance that feels practical rather than clinical. Clients say her sessions help them untangle stress, strengthen relationships and navigate life's changes with a clearer mind. For a new business, it's already become a trusted spot for people who want to feel understood and empowered.

**7373 University Ave, La Mesa
(619) 333-0434 | shainaspeaks.com**

Best New Restaurant Tour de Tapas

Tour de Tapas offers a mini-European culinary journey packed into a stylish, intimate downtown setting. With a menu that highlights the best of Spain, France and Italy — small plates like patatas bravas, octopus with chistorra, mussels in white wine and saffron-infused paella — it's ideal for sharing, exploring and delighting your palate. The wine list of over 30 bottles from southern Europe is just the companion this feast deserves. Whether you're out for a date night or a fun bite with friends, Tour de Tapas elevates casual dining into something special and memorable.

**8323 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 391-3396 | tourdetapas.com**

Best Office Supply/Shipping Postal Annex, La Mesa

Postal Annex of La Mesa offers UPS, FedEx and USPS shipping, private mailbox rental, notary public service, copy service, mailing supplies, shipping supplies and other business services. Rates compare to major mail carrier rates. Know

you are in good hands.

8030 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 461-8977 | postalannex.com

Best Optometrist La Mesa Optometry

La Mesa Optometry strikes the perfect balance between advanced eye care and warm, friendly service. Their team uses cutting-edge diagnostic tools (like ultra-wide retinal imaging and digital strain assessments), while still taking time to walk you through what every result means. From children's exams to managing dry eye and myopia, they cover a full spectrum of vision needs. Many mention how the staff makes them feel heard and comfortable—whether they're picking new frames or getting a recommended treatment. In short: you'll leave seeing better and feeling well-taken-care-of.

8321 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 550-0403 | lamesaoptometry.com

Best Patio Dining

Casa Gabriela

(See listing under Best Appetizer)

Best Personal Trainer

Shaina Chester at Werk Fitness

Shaina Chester at Werk Fitness has made a real impact by blending high-energy workouts with thoughtful coaching that goes beyond reps and sets. Her sessions are tailored to each person, combining strength, conditioning, mobility and mindset—helping clients build confidence, durability and resilience. People love her upbeat attitude, no-fluff approach and the way she keeps it real while helping them push forward. Whether you're preparing for a personal milestone or simply seeking better health, Shaina's expertise makes the process not just effective but genuinely enjoyable.

8238 Allison Ave, La Mesa
(619) 279-3345 | werkfitness.com

Best Pest Control

Knott's Pest Control

Knott's Pest Control is the kind of local team you hope you never have to call—until pests show up—and then you're glad you did. Since 1981, they've been managing everything from rodent invasions to termite trouble with friendly service and serious expertise. The technicians show up informed, respectful and ready to fix the issue. If your home or business needs pest relief that feels professional, thorough and dependable, Knott's is the team you want on your side.

(619) 466-0464 | knottspest.com

Best Pet Boarding/Day Care

Doggie Do's

Doggie Do's isn't just a day care—it's a place your pup actually looks forward to. With a kennel-free environment, dogs roam, play and socialize in supervised groups, turning drop-off

into something they'll wag for instead of dread. The staff treats every dog like part of the family, and the grooming services are a trusted bonus if you need clean and fresh pup. Pet owners say the facility is clean, the team communicates well and their pets arrive active and happy after a full day. Doggie Do's brings care, trust and good vibes to doggy day care.

5575 Baltimore Dr # 108, La Mesa
(619) 741-0566 | doggiedossd.com

Best Pet Friendly The Hills Pub

The Hills Pub is a genuine win for anyone who doesn't want to leave their four-legged friend behind. With often a treat bowl and plenty of outdoor seating, it welcomes pups just as much as people. The patio is shaded and comfortable, the dogs on staff are always ready for a scratch behind the ears and the vibe is casual enough that you can settle in for a drink and a bite without stress. It's one of those places where you don't have to worry whether your dog is tolerated—they're part of the scene.

8758 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 741-7166 | thehillspub.com

Best Pet Groomer

Village Pet Salon

Village Pet Salon is a family-owned grooming studio built on care, quality, and trust. Their team focuses on using top-tier products and gentle techniques to make each visit safe and comfortable. They never force the grooming process—if a pet is overly stressed, they'll stop and recommend a veterinarian groomer instead. That thoughtful approach has earned them a loyal following. They take the time to build a real connection with every animal, creating an experience that feels calm, professional, and truly personal for both pets and their owners.

8247 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 461-7200 | villagepetsalon.com

Best Pet Sitter

Doggie Do's

(See listing under Best Pet Boarding/Day Care)

Best Pet Supplies

Paw Country

Paw Country has earned accolades for turning pet supply shopping into a thoughtful, feel-good experience. It's not just about filling a bowl—the team specializes in holistic, natural nutrition and gives genuine guidance on feeding what your pet deserves. You'll find raw, freeze-dried and whole foods alongside standard supplies, all chosen with care. Local pet parents appreciate the staff's knowledge, the friendly vibe and the way their pets wag happily after each visit.

5652 Lake Murray Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 463-1134 | welcometopawcountry.com

Best Pharmacy Village Rose Pharmacy

Village Rose Pharmacy is the kind of independent pharmacy people are grateful to have in their corner. The team takes a personal, hands-on approach—answering questions, helping navigate new prescriptions and making sure every patient feels understood rather than rushed. One of their biggest perks is convenience: they deliver medications and OTC essentials throughout San Diego County, making it easy for customers to stay on track with their health. Friendly service, real accessibility and a true community feel make this pharmacy a standout choice.

7773 University Ave, La Mesa
(619) 741-1344
villageroserpix@gmail.com

Best Pho Pho Superbowl

Pho Superbowl wins over diners with steaming bowls of broth that are rich, fragrant and full of comfort. It's the kind of spot where the flavors taste slow-simmered, the portions are generous and the menu goes well beyond pho with solid Vietnamese favorites. Prices stay fair, the dining room is kept spotless and the service is quick and genuinely friendly—all the things that make a casual meal feel easy and satisfying.

8342 Parkway Dr, La Mesa
(619) 469-8984
phosuperbowl.webflow.io

Best Photographer Gretchen Otero Photography

For photos that truly feel like keepsakes—not just snapshots—Gretchen Otero creates portraits that celebrate what matters most: family, pets and the connections that make a house feel like home. Since 2004, she's specialized in capturing natural, authentic moments that turn into wall art, albums and heirlooms. Clients say her warmth, patience (especially with wiggly pets and energetic kids) and artistic eye make the experience effortless and the results exceptional. If you're looking to freeze a moment—and savor it for years—this studio delivers.

7890 Michelle Dr, La Mesa
(901) 848-0668 | gretchenotero.com

Best Physical Therapist/ Rehab La Mesa Rehab

La Mesa Rehab brings a level of care that feels both highly skilled and genuinely encouraging. As a comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility, they focus on helping each patient regain strength, mobility and confidence through personalized treatment plans. The therapists take time to understand individual goals—whether it's recovering from surgery, easing chronic pain or getting back to daily routines with comfort and stability. Their supportive approach, combined with expert techniques, makes the rehab process feel achievable rather than intimidating. Patients often say they feel heard, motivated and

steadily on the path to real improvement.

8380 Center Drive, Ste E, La Mesa
lamesarehab.com

Best Pilates Evolving Pilates

Evolving Pilates has built a reputation for helping clients feel stronger, more centered and more connected to their bodies through thoughtful, precision-based instruction. This boutique studio focuses on quality over quantity—small classes, full-equipment workouts and instructors who pay close attention to form so each movement actually does what it's meant to. Clients love how tailored the sessions feel, whether they're rebuilding strength, improving posture, or looking for a deeper mind-body connection. The atmosphere is calm, encouraging and refreshingly unpretentious, making it a place where real progress comes naturally.

8759 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 770-8471 | evolvingpilates.com

Best Pizza

Pietro's Cucina Italiana

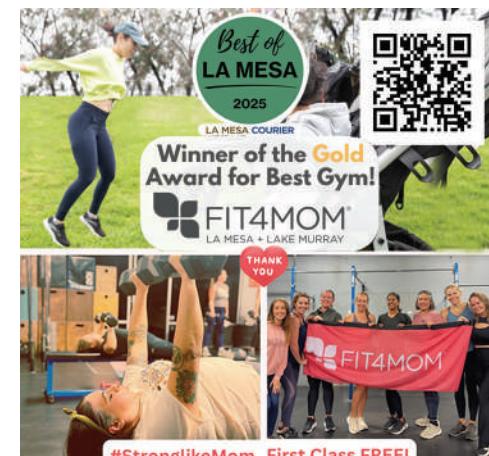
(See listing under Best Casual Dining)

Best Plumber

Damman's Plumbing

Damman's Plumbing has earned a loyal following by doing what homeowners appreciate most—showing up when they say they will, explaining the problem clearly and fixing it without drama. Their team handles everything from routine leaks to complex repairs with solid workmanship and a calm, confident approach. Clients often mention how respectful the technicians are in their homes and how honest the pricing feels, even when emergencies strike. It's a company built on reliability and trust, the kind of plumber people recommend to neighbors because they know the job will be done right the first time.

7934 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 504-3745 | dammansplumbing.net



Best Pool Service Blue Tide Swimming Pool Service & Repair

Blue Tide earns its reputation by keeping pools sparkling clean and stress-free for homeowners who want reliability above all. Their team is known arriving on schedule, checking every detail, and catching small issues before they turn into bigger problems. From weekly maintenance to equipment repairs, they work with a level of consistency and communication that gives customers real peace of mind. It's professional, no-nonsense service backed by technicians who genuinely care about keeping your pool in top shape.

6977 Navajo Rd, San Diego, 92119
(619) 820-3377 | bluetidepoolservice.com

Best Real Estate Agent Jim O'Donnell

Jim O'Donnell has earned his place as La Mesa's top choice—voted Best REALTOR® six years running. A full-time agent who both lives and works in the community, Jim brings a grounded, local perspective to every transaction. He's known for his responsiveness, steady guidance, and commitment to making sure his clients feel confident from start to finish. Whether representing buyers or sellers, Jim's focus is always on securing the best outcome with professionalism and care. It's why so many La Mesa residents trust him with their biggest decisions.

La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 990-8522
jimodonnell.net [\(DRE# 02064199\)](mailto:orjimodonnellrealtor@gmail.com)

Best Real Estate Office United Real Estate

United Real Estate stands out for its steady guidance and commitment to making every step of the buying or selling process feel manageable. Their agents take the time to explain options clearly, keep communication moving and ensure clients feel confident in their decisions. As part of a nationwide network with deep roots in real estate marketing, the office benefits from strong technology, smart tools and experienced leadership. The result is a team that blends local knowledge with modern resources, giving clients a reliable partner who can navigate changing markets with ease and confidence.

8702 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 500-2020
unitedrealestatesandiego.com

Best Remodeling/Renovations Kitchens Plus

Kitchens Plus has been a trusted name in home remodeling for more than 35 years, helping homeowners create spaces that feel both functional and inviting. Their team specializes in kitchen and bathroom renovations, offering

thoughtful design, quality craftsmanship, and a process that's straightforward from start to finish. Clients appreciate their clear communication, attention to detail, and the way they tailor each project to fit individual needs. Whether it's a full remodel or a focused upgrade, Kitchens Plus works to make the experience smooth, reliable, and worth the investment.

7943 University Ave, La Mesa
(619) 466-5100 | kitchensplussd.com

Best Retirement Living Westmont® of La Mesa

At Westmont® of La Mesa, the Live Your Way® philosophy is embraced, focusing on whole-body wellness through the Six Dimensions of Wellness as defined by the National Wellness Institute (NWI). Their holistic approach promotes physical fitness, lifelong learning, meaningful social connections and creative expression. Emotional and spiritual well-being are inspired through fellowship, while a sense of purpose and community contribution is fostered. Residents thrive in a vibrant, engaging environment that promotes personal fulfillment and balance. Live your way at Westmont.

9000 Murray Drive, La Mesa
(619) 369-9700 | westmontliving.com

Best Sandwich MammaMia Sicilian Deli & Market

MammaMia Sicilian Deli & Market is the kind of place where one great sandwich turns into a full-blown obsession. The bread is always fresh, the meats and cheeses are sliced with care and the flavors have that unmistakable Old World richness you only get from true Sicilian recipes. Regulars rave about the generous portions, house-made specialties and the way every sandwich feels thoughtfully layered rather than thrown together. It's part deli, part market and entirely irresistible — the spot you hit once and instantly know why it topped the category.

4231 Spring St, La Mesa
(619) 462-1162
mammamiasiciliandelimarket.com

Best Seafood Brigantine Seafood & Oyster Bar

Brigantine has long been known for doing seafood the right way — fresh, carefully prepared, and served with a confidence that only comes from years of experience. Their oysters are a must, but the entire menu delivers crisp fish tacos, perfectly grilled catches, and classics that highlight the quality of the ingredients instead of hiding them. Guests appreciate the relaxed coastal feel, attentive service and the consistency that makes every visit feel like a treat. It's a neighborhood favorite where seafood lovers know they're in good hands.

9350 Fuerte Dr, La Mesa
(619) 465-1935 | brigantine.com

timesofsandiego.com

Best Solar Company SolarGuru Energy

SolarGuru Energy stands out for making the move to solar feel simple, transparent and genuinely worthwhile. Their team takes time to explain the technology, walk homeowners through realistic savings and design systems that actually fit each property instead of using a one-size approach. Customers appreciate the straightforward pricing, clean installations and the way SolarGuru stays responsive long after the panels are up and running. It's a company rooted in service and long-term value — exactly what people want when investing in their home's energy future.

3605 Birdie Dr, La Mesa
(833) 383-4878 | solarguruenergy.com

Best Sports Bar Pete's Place

(See listing under Best Bar)

Best Steakhouse Riviera Supper Club

Riviera Supper Club has held its place as La Mesa's original grill-your-own steakhouse—an experience you really won't find anywhere else in San Diego. The charm is in the mix of old-school character, great cuts of meat, and a lively atmosphere that feels timeless. Guests love the freedom of grilling at their own table, settling in with a cocktail, and enjoying the relaxed, throw-back vibe. Add in their rotating lineup of live music, and it's easy to see why locals keep coming back for a night that's equal parts fun and delicious.

7777 University Ave, La Mesa
(619) 713-6777 | rivierasupperclub.com

Best Sunday Brunch Curbside Eatery & Drinkery

Curbside Eatery & Drinkery has made Sunday brunch feel like something to look forward to all week. Their menu hits that perfect mix of hearty comfort food and fresh, fun twists — think perfectly cooked eggs, stacked sandwiches, crispy sides and a few indulgences you can only justify on a lazy Sunday. Add in friendly service, a relaxed patio and brunch cocktails that never disappoint, and you've got a place where people naturally settle in and stay a while. It's the kind of brunch spot that makes Sundays feel like a celebration.

8353 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 303-8383 | curbsideeaterydrinkery.com

Best Sushi Konnichiwa Sushi & Bar

(See listing under Best Ahi Poke)

Best Tailor Lena's Alterations & Dry Cleaning

(See listing under Best Dry Cleaners)

Best Tanning Salon

Gypsy Jewel Sugaring & Skin Care

Gypsy Jewel Sugaring & Skin Care brings a boutique, pampering touch to every service they offer. Known for their natural sugaring techniques and flawless airbrush tans, the studio focuses on enhancing each client's glow in a way that looks effortless, not overdone. The team takes time to personalize every appointment — from skin prep to shade selection — so results feel seamless and tailored. The space is calm and inviting, making each visit feel like a small retreat. It's the kind of place where clients walk out looking refreshed and feeling even better.

8749 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 648-1407 | gypsyjewelskin.com

Best Tattoo/Piercing, Studs Flawless Ink by Nina

Flawless Ink by Nina has earned a loyal following for combining true artistry with a clean, calming studio vibe that puts clients instantly at ease. Nina's work is known for its precision and softness — whether she's creating fine-line designs, meaningful custom pieces or handling delicate piercings with a gentle, steady touch. Clients appreciate her clear communication, thoughtful aftercare guidance and the way she makes the entire experience feel personal rather than rushed. It's a studio where creativity and comfort meet, and where every client leaves feeling confident in their new ink or stud.

8291 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 822-0434 | flawlessinkbynina.com

Best Thai Tamarind Thai

Tamarind Thai is one of those neighborhood spots that wins you over with bright flavors, generous portions, and consistently thoughtful cooking. Their curries strike the right balance—rich, layered, and never too heavy—while their wok dishes stay crisp, aromatic, and full of fresh herbs. The menu blends well-loved Thai classics with house specialties you won't find just anywhere, giving diners plenty to explore. Friendly service and warm hospitality make even first-time guests feel like regulars. For comforting, flavorful dishes made with real care, Tamarind Thai remains a local favorite.

7970 University Ave #310, La Mesa
(619) 337-2581 | tamarindthai.com

Best Tutoring Mathnasium

Mathnasium takes the stress out of math by teaching in a way that finally makes sense to kids. Their instructors use a proven, proprietary method to meet each student right where they are—whether they need support catching up or are ready to move ahead. Parents appreciate the clear structure, steady progress, and the boost in confidence that comes as math skills click into place. Students start to enjoy the subject more,

participate with ease, and often see real improvement in the classroom. It's a supportive environment built for long-term success.

2828 Fletcher Pkwy, El Cajon, 92020
(619) 464-6284 | mathnasium.com

Best Vegetarian

Tamarind Thai

(See listing under Best Thai)

Best Veterinarian

Pet Hospital of La Mesa

Pet Hospital of La Mesa is known for its warm, attentive approach and the kind of veterinary care that puts both pets and owners at ease. Their team takes time to understand each animal's personality and health needs, explaining treatment options clearly and never rushing appointments. From routine wellness visits to more complex care, they focus on compassion, communication and building long-term trust. It's a clinic where pets feel safe, owners feel supported and quality care is always the priority.

5336 Jackson Dr, La Mesa
(619) 469-0138 | pethospitaloflamesa.com

Best Waxing/Threading

Be Bare Esthetics

Be Bare Esthetics earns its reputation by focusing on precision, comfort and a level of care that keeps clients coming back. Their waxing and threading services are meticulous without feeling rushed, and the estheticians take the time to understand each client's needs. The studio is bright, calm and refreshingly unpretentious—perfect for anyone who wants reliable results without the spa fuss. Whether it's brows, bikini, or full-face threading, they deliver smooth, consistent work that feels effortlessly polished.

8291 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 784-5551 | bebareesthetics.com

Best Wine Bar

San Pasqual Winery

San Pasqual Winery is a small, family owned winery located in La Mesa.. Although the name-sake dates to the 1970's when it was located in

the San Pasqual Valley, the winery was later "re-invented" as San Diego's first urban winery, earning it a spot on Sunset Magazine's list of "Hot 100 West Coast Trends." The winery is now located in the industrial area of La Mesa, with offsite tasting rooms nearby in the Village of La Mesa and downtown San Diego at Seaport Village. With annual production ranging from three to four thousand cases, most of our wine is sold directly from the winery and tasting room locations, allowing a more personal connection to enjoy our wines.

8364 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
(619) 462-1797 | sanpasqualwinery.com

Best Wine Selection

Tour de Tapas

(See listing under "Best New Restaurant")

Best Wine Shop

San Pasqual Winery

(See listing under Best Wine Bar)

Best Wings

Johnny B's Burger, Brews, & Spirits

(See listing under "Best American Cuisine")

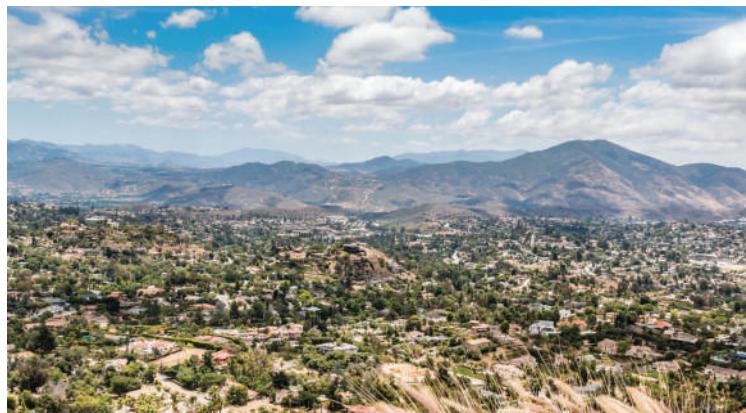
Best Yoga Studio

JoyBabe Studio

(See listing under Best Childcare)



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