



Best of  
UPTOWN &  
DOWNTOWN  
SAN DIEGO  
2025

UPTOWN NEWS DOWNTOWN NEWS

## Congratulations to all the winners!

With the book closing this month on 2025, what will you remember about this year?

If you own a business in the downtown or uptown areas of San Diego, you might look back fondly that your business was recognized as one of the best in the area.

San Diego's urban core in the downtown and uptown communities is full of vibrant neighborhoods, historic districts and an ever-evolving landscape.

From residents to houses, our neighborhoods comprise a balanced mix of young and old, established and new. Why would the dining and entertainment establishments we frequent be any different?

Each year, we ask readers to weigh in on what businesses add to the fabric of these communities in the annual Best of

Downtown and Best of Uptown awards. Amid rising printing costs, these awards have been combined into one special edition highlighting businesses in central San Diego.

If your business was recognized, be sure to save a copy of this month's newspaper. You can look back proudly on how all of your hard work has paid off in the eyes of local residents.

If you're a consumer of area businesses, go ahead and save a copy too. You can use the edition to reference a myriad of local businesses when you want to go shopping for a wide range of goods and services.

The Best of Downtown and Uptown edition will be a good keepsake for you to have for sure.

Readers of Downtown and Uptown

News voted for dozens of local establishments in dining categories like best happy hour, Irish pub, burrito, pizza, and donut shop, as well as retail categories like antique store and spa.

San Diego Uptown News covers nearly a dozen neighborhoods, including Mission Hills, Bankers Hill, Hillcrest, University Heights, Normal Heights, North Park, South Park, Golden Hill, Kensington, and Talmadge, as well as nearby regions of City Heights, Old Town, and more.

Downtown News covers another set of unique neighborhoods from the reaches of the ever-expanding East Village, to the historic Gaslamp Quarter, through the twinkling lights of the Core/Columbia and Financial districts, to the shores of the Marina District and the Embarcad-

ero, and the piazzas of Little Italy.

Our readers have spoken about their favorite establishments in each of these neighborhoods.

The range of winners reflects our diverse city, offering a glimpse of what it's like to live in central San Diego.

As you look through these pages, we hope you find familiar names along with new faces. Swing by these spots for a taste of life and to support local businesses and service providers.

To each of our 2025 Best of Downtown and Uptown winners, we extend our hearty congratulations on your recognition.

We hope our loyal readers — and your loyal customers, both new and old — continue to show you patronage for years to come.



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## Congratulations to the following businesses who were chosen by the readers of the Uptown and Downtown News.

This year's Best Of ballot brought a terrific response from readers across Uptown and Downtown. Over six weeks, voters nominated and selected their favorite businesses across nearly 100 categories — and thanks to our updated voting system, the process was smoother than ever. Readers could easily nominate and vote for businesses, and our verification tools helped ensure fair results with one vote per category, per person. On the backend, tallying was streamlined, making it more accurate and efficient for us to present the final results. A big thank-you to every reader who participated and took the time to support local businesses. You make this community what it is. *Editor's note: Factual descriptions for sponsored guides were compiled with the help of artificial intelligence and then checked for accuracy by an editor.*

### BEST ACUPUNCTURE

Wendi M. Miyashiro, LAC

### BEST AHI POKE

barleymash  
Poki One N Half  
Poké Chop

### BEST AMERICAN

barleymash  
The Smoking Gun  
Trust (tie) Working Class

### BEST APPETIZER

Fonda del Barrio  
Cloak and Petal Little Italy  
The Whiskey House

### BEST ATTORNEY

RJS Law

### BEST AUTO REPAIR

Mission Hills Automotive  
Smitty's Service  
A Street Auto Service

### BEST BBQ

Grand Ole BBQ  
Phil's BBQ

### BEST BAKERY

Spill the Beans Coffee and Bagels  
Bread & Cie  
ASA Bakery

### BEST BANK

Wells Fargo

### BEST BAR

The Whiskey House  
Aero Club Bar  
barleymash

### BEST BARBER

Jax Cuts  
Hillside Barber

### BEST BEER SELECTION

barleymash  
The Original 40 Brewing Company  
Karl Strauss Brewing Company

### BEST BIKE SHOP

Cal Coast Bicycles

### BEST BILLIARDS

The Smoking Gun  
Bluefoot Bar and Lounge  
Moonshine Flats

### BEST BOUTIQUE

Native Star

### BEST BREAKFAST

Breakfast Republic  
Hob Nob Hill  
Sunnyboy Biscuit Co.

### BEST BREWERY

Karl Strauss Brewing Company  
The Original 40 Brewing Company  
Burgeon at The Arbor - Little Italy

### BEST BRUNCH

6th & G Breakfast Co.  
Werewolf  
The Whiskey House

### BEST BURGER

The Smoking Gun  
The Balboa  
Hodad's Downtown

### BEST BURRITO

Hasta Mañana Cantina  
La Puerta  
Señor Taquero

### BEST CAFE

Spill the Beans Coffee and Bagels  
Bread & Cie  
HINAR Dessert Bar & Café

### BEST CAR WASH

Uptown Car Wash

### BEST CASUAL DINING

Fonda del Barrio  
Breakfast Republic  
The Original 40 Brewing Company

### BEST CHINESE

Cloak and Petal Little Italy

### BEST CHIROPRACTOR

Inner Balance Institute  
Good Vibrations Family Chiropractic  
Acru Health: Precision Chiropractic

### BEST COCKTAILS

Fonda del Barrio  
The Whiskey House  
Cloak and Petal Little Italy

### BEST COFFEE SHOP

Spill the Beans Coffee and Bagels  
Lestat's  
Achilles Coffee Roasters

### BEST CONSIGNMENT/RESALE

Out of the Closet  
Consignment Classics

### BEST CONSTRUCTION

Craftsman Foundation Repair  
Psomas

### BEST COSMETIC SERVICES

RevimaMed Plastic Surgery

### BEST CREDIT UNION

Mission Fed Credit Union  
Wheelhouse Credit Union  
California Coast Credit Union

### BEST DELI

Lazy Acres Natural Market

### BEST DENTIST

Marina District Dentistry  
Affinity Dental Hillcrest

### BEST DERMATOLOGIST

The Skin Clinic MD / Seaver Soon, MD  
MedDerm Dermatology

### BEST DESSERTS

Extraordinary Desserts  
Sugar Bears  
HINAR Dessert Bar & Café

### BEST DINER

Rudfords  
Lucky's Lunch Counter

### BEST DINNER

Louisiana Purchase  
Fort Oak  
Cowboy Star Restaurant and Butcher Shop

### BEST DONUTS

Dunkin'

### BEST EVENTS

Artwalk Little Italy

### BEST FARMERS MARKET

Hillcrest Farmers Market

### BEST FINANCIAL PLANNER

Tom Gibbings - Prime Capital Financial  
Prime Capital Financial  
ProFiduciary

### BEST FINE DINING

Frenchy's Hideout  
Mister A's  
Puesto

### BEST FISH TACO

Las Hadas Bar and Grill  
Hasta Mañana Cantina  
Fish Guts

### BEST FLORIST

Dave's Flower Box  
Nostalgia Flowers and Gifts  
Bloom Avenue

### BEST GIFT SHOP

The Museum Store at  
The San Diego Museum of Art

### BEST GREEK

Meze Greek Fusion  
Olympic Cafe  
Nick the Greek

### BEST HAIR SALON

BB Meme Salon

### BEST HAPPY HOUR

The Whiskey House  
barleymash  
Puesto

### BEST HARDWARE STORE

Hillcrest Ace Hardware  
Downtown Ace Hardware

### BEST HEALTH FOOD STORE

SD Discount Nutrition  
Lazy Acres Natural Market

### BEST HOSPITAL

UCSD - Hillcrest

### BEST DERMATOLOGIST

The Skin Clinic MD / Seaver Soon, MD  
MedDerm Dermatology

### BEST HOT WINGS

The Smoking Gun  
Fairplay  
URBN North Park

### BEST ICE CREAM / FROZEN YOGURT

North Park Creamery  
Cali Cream Homemade Ice Cream  
Handel's Homemade Ice Cream Hillcrest

### BEST INDIAN

Royal India  
Urban India Restaurant & Bar

### BEST INTERIOR DESIGN

Jules Wilson Design Studio

### BEST IRISH PUB

The Field Irish Pub  
Patrick's Gaslamp Pub

### BEST ITALIAN

Mona Lisa Italian Foods  
Filippi's  
Buon Appetito Restaurant

### BEST JAPANESE

Cloak and Petal Little Italy  
Sushi MARU  
Lumi

### BEST JEWELRY

Vincero Collective  
Harold Stevens Jewelers

### BEST JUICE BAR

Vitality Tap  
Choice Juicery

### BEST LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Balin Butler Landscape Design

### BEST LIVE MUSIC

Casbah  
EQ  
Moonshine Flats

### BEST LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Balboa Park  
USS Midway Museum  
Petco Park

### BEST LUNCH

Hasta Mañana Cantina  
Sisters Pizza  
The Original 40 Brewing Company

### BEST MASSAGE

The NOW Massage (Little Italy)

### BEST MEDITERRANEAN

Calliet  
Fairouz Cafe & Gallery

### BEST MEXICAN

Fonda del Barrio  
Hasta Mañana Cantina  
Puesto

### BEST NEW RESTAURANT

Frenchy's Hideout  
Fonda del Barrio  
Choi's

### BEST OPTOMETRIST

Urban Optiks  
North Park Optometry  
Optometric Expressions / Dr. Dana Huth

### BEST PATIO DINING

The Prado at Balboa Park  
Panama 66

### BEST PET FRIENDLY

Fernside  
Provisional Kitchen

### BEST PHO

Pho Point Loma & Grill

### BEST PHYSICAL THERAPIST

The Physical Therapy Effect

### BEST PILATES

Pilates of San Diego

### BEST PIZZA

Mr. Moto Pizza  
Bronx Pizza  
Sisters Pizza

### BEST PLUMBER

RDZ Plumbing and Drains  
Plumb Loco

### BEST REAL ESTATE

North Properties

### BEST REAL ESTATE AGENT

Vicki Dutch-Jones  
Meyer Swanepoel  
Maureen Tess-Fieberg

### BEST REAL ESTATE OFFICE

Roots Real Estate  
Neuman & Neuman Real Estate  
Woods Real Estate Services

### BEST REMODELING

Sheiner Construction

### BEST RESTAURANT GROUP

Good Time Designs

### BEST RETIREMENT LIVING

Merrill Gardens  
St. Pauls Seniors  
Harborview Assisted Living

### BEST SANDWICH

barleymash  
Ike's Love & Sandwiches  
Big Front Door

### BEST SEAFOOD

Louisiana Purchase  
Ironside Fish & Oyster  
Pete's Seafood and Sandwich

### BEST SOLAR COMPANY

Preman Roofing-Solar

### BEST SPORTS BAR

The Smoking Gun  
Fairplay  
barleymash

### BEST STEAK

Born & Raised  
Rare Society  
Freddy's Chophouse

### BEST SUNDAY BRUNCH

Louisiana Purchase  
Cafe Sevilla  
GARAGE Kitchen + Bar

### BEST SUSHI

Cloak and Petal Little Italy  
Sushi Deli  
Sushi MARU

### BEST TAILOR

Sante Tailoring

### BEST TANNING SALON

Glow Up San Diego

### BEST THAI

Thai Island  
Bahn Thai  
Thai Time

### BEST VEGETARIAN

Plumeria Vegetarian Restaurant  
Tacotarian

### BEST VETERINARIAN

Amici Pet Hospital

### BEST WINE BAR

Nolita Hall  
WetStone Winebar

### BEST WINE SELECTION

Vino Carta

### BEST WINE SHOP

Vino Carta

### BEST WINGS

barleymash  
The Whiskey House  
Burgeon at The Arbor - Little Italy

### BEST YOGA STUDIO

The Little Yoga Studio



# GOLD WINNER LISTINGS:

## Best Acupuncture

### Wendi M. Miyashiro, LAC

Wendi M. Miyashiro has earned a loyal following by offering a calming, thoughtful approach to acupuncture that feels personal from the moment you step in. She has a way of listening that puts people at ease, and her treatments reflect that—gentle, precise and tailored to what each client actually needs. Whether someone is dealing with chronic pain, stress or just looking to feel more balanced, Wendi brings a steady confidence and real skill to the table. It's no surprise so many San Diegans consider her their go-to for holistic care.

**2481 Congress St, San Diego**  
(619) 740-1838 | [acupuncture-sandiego.com](http://acupuncture-sandiego.com)

## Best Ahi Poke

### barleymash

Barleymash has become one of those Downtown spots that somehow does everything well — and their multiple category wins prove it. Their unexpected, flavor-packed ahi poke bowl turned heads, but it's the all-American comfort food that keeps people hooked. Think towering sandwiches, craveable burgers, wings with real

kick, and house specialties that always feel bold and a little indulgent. The portions are generous, the energy is high, and the place hums from lunch through late night with that signature Fifth Avenue buzz. Add in craft beer, good music, and a staff that knows how to keep things fun, and you've got a true Gaslamp favorite that satisfies nearly every craving.

**600 Fifth Ave, San Diego**  
(619) 255-7373 | [barleymash.com](http://barleymash.com)

## Best American Cuisine

### barleymash

(See listing under Best Ahi Poke)

## Best Appetizer

### Fonda del Barrio

Fonda del Barrio has a way of making even the smallest bites feel like a full celebration. Their appetizers come out vibrant and bold, packed with the flavors that define this beloved Logan Avenue spot—bright salsas, warm spices and just the right amount of heat. Whether you're sharing plates with friends or easing into a full meal, their starters set the tone beautifully. People rave about the freshness, the balance and that unmistakable homemade touch that

keeps everyone reaching back for one more. It's comfort, craft and culture on a single plate.

**2234 Logan Ave, San Diego**  
[fondadelbarrio.com](http://fondadelbarrio.com)

## Best Attorney

### RJS Law

RJS Law has built its reputation on giving clients real clarity in situations that often feel overwhelming. Known for their sharp tax-law expertise, the firm tackles everything from audits to complex disputes with a calm, strategic approach that earns trust. Clients appreciate how clearly the team explains each step and how diligently they work to protect people's interests. It's a firm that combines legal skill with a steady, reassuring presence — exactly why they've become a go-to name in San Diego.

**303 A St, San Diego**  
(619) 595-1655 | [irssolution.com](http://irssolution.com)

## Best Auto Repair Shop

### Mission Hills Automotive

Mission Hills Automotive has earned a loyal following for being the kind of shop drivers trust year after year. Their team handles everything from routine maintenance to complex re-

pairs with skill, honesty and a commitment to keeping your vehicle running at its best. Owner Randy brings decades of experience to both Mission Hills Automotive and Cass Street Automotive, and he's equally dedicated to developing the next generation of skilled technicians. It's the neighborhood shop that treats every customer like a long-term client — and every car like it matters.

**308 W Washington St, San Diego**  
(619) 299-9367 | [missionhillsautosd.com](http://missionhillsautosd.com)

## Best BBQ

### Grand Ole BBQ

Grand Ole BBQ is the kind of place where the smoke hits you before the menu does, and that's how you know you're in for something good. Their Texas-style barbecue is slow-cooked, deeply seasoned and served with the kind of confidence that only comes from doing things the right way. Whether it's brisket that melts apart, ribs with the perfect tug or sausages with real snap, every bite shows off their craft. It's hearty, unfussy and packed with that backyard-barbecue soul you expect.

**3302 32nd St, San Diego**  
(619) 720-2211 | [grandolebbq.com](http://grandolebbq.com)

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**Best Bakery****Spill the Beans Coffee and Bagels**

Spill the Beans has carved out a sweet spot downtown with its irresistible mix of fresh-baked goods and easygoing coffeehouse charm. Their bagels are the headliners—chewy, golden and baked daily—but the rest of the pastry case holds its own with creative flavors and treats that feel homemade in the best way. Pair anything with their thoughtfully brewed coffee, and you've got the kind of morning that just starts right. It's casual, friendly and exactly where locals wander in when they want something simple, fresh and really good.

**555 Market St, San Diego**  
(619) 233-3836 | [spillthebeanssd.com](http://spillthebeanssd.com)

**Best Bank****Wells Fargo**

This Wells Fargo branch remains a local favorite for one simple reason: they make banking feel easy. Whether someone is handling everyday transactions, opening new accounts or sorting out more detailed financial questions, the staff here is known for being patient, helpful and quick to get things done. The convenience of a central downtown location doesn't hurt either, especially for people who need reliable service during a busy workday. It's a straightforward,

dependable spot that many residents and businesses continue to trust with their financial needs.

**610 1st Ave, San Diego**  
(619) 515-1460 | [wellsfargo.com](http://wellsfargo.com)

**Best Bar****The Whiskey House**

The Whiskey House is a must-visit for anyone who enjoys a good pour, offering one of the largest and most interesting whiskey selections you'll find anywhere in the city. Whether you're into rare bottles, classic favorites or something bold and new, the staff knows their stuff and loves helping guests explore. The vibe is warm, a little moody and perfect for settling in with friends or discovering a new favorite spirit. Add in thoughtful cocktails and hearty bites, and it's clear why this place wins over whiskey fans and casual sippers alike.

**420 Third Ave, San Diego**  
(619) 546-6289  
[thewhiskeyhousesd.com](http://thewhiskeyhousesd.com)

**Best Barber****Jax Cuts**

Jax Cuts has become a neighborhood favorite thanks to its easygoing vibe and barbers who truly know their craft. A cut above the rest (pun fully intended), the team combines skill, friendliness, and real attention to detail. They

listen, offer suggestions, and make sure every cut feels sharp and tailored. Beyond classic barbering, Jax Cuts is also a full-service salon for men and women — from fresh color to total restyles. Clients love the consistency, the comfort, and that "nailed it" feeling when they walk out looking exactly how they hoped.

**4105 Park Blvd, San Diego**  
(619) 738-8511 | [jaxcuts.net](http://jaxcuts.net)

**Best Beer Selection****barleymash**

(See listing under Ahi Poke)

**Best Bike Shop****Cal Coast Bicycles**

Cal Coast Bicycles is a longtime favorite for riders of all kinds, from casual cruisers to serious cyclists. The shop blends expert knowledge with a relaxed, welcoming vibe, making it easy to ask questions, compare options and find the right fit. Their team is known for honest guidance, quality repairs and a selection that covers everything from everyday bikes to high-performance gear. Whether you're gearing up for commuting, weekend rides or trail adventures, Cal Coast stays committed to keeping San Diego rolling smoothly.

**3020 Adams Ave, San Diego**  
(619) 281-7433 | [calcoastbicycles.com](http://calcoastbicycles.com)

**Best Billiards****The Smoking Gun**

The Smoking Gun is one of those downtown spots that just gets it right—bold, flavorful food, a bar program with personality and a social vibe that keeps people coming back. Their hot wings have earned a loyal following for good reason: crispy, saucy and built with real craft behind the heat. Add in their well-kept billiards setup, and suddenly it's more than a bar—it's a place to settle in. Regulars mix easily with first-timers, games stretch into conversations and a quick stop can turn into a full, easygoing night out.

**555 Market St, San Diego**  
(619) 233-3836 | [thesmokingguncsd.com](http://thesmokingguncsd.com)

**Best Boutique****Native Star**

Native Star brings a fresh, artistic edge to the Gaslamp, offering a curated mix of clothing, jewelry and accessories you won't find in the usual chain shops. The boutique has a knack for selecting pieces that feel both modern and soulful, with designs that celebrate creativity and individuality. Shoppers love the personal touch — the owners are often on hand, offering genuine guidance without any pressure. Whether you're hunting for a standout outfit or a unique gift, Native Star keeps things fun,



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**Info@royalindia.com**  
[RoyalIndia.com](http://RoyalIndia.com)

**Miramar**  
8990 Miramar road  
858-457-9999

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(619) 895-3027 | native-star.com

## Best Breakfast Breakfast Republic

Breakfast Republic has turned the morning meal into something worth planning your day around. Known for playful twists on classics — think creative pancakes, loaded scrambles and comfort food with personality — this spot keeps crowds coming back. The portions are hearty, the flavors are bold and the atmosphere is upbeat without feeling rushed. Whether you're grabbing brunch with friends or fueling up before exploring downtown, there's always something on the menu that hits just right. It's fun, satisfying and one of the city's most reliable breakfast staples.

707 G St, San Diego  
(619) 501-8280 | breakfastrepublic.com

## Best Brewery Karl Strauss Brewing Company

Karl Strauss Brewing Company continues to earn its place as a San Diego staple — and for good reason. Founded in 1989, Karl Strauss helped launch the city's now-famous craft beer movement, setting the tone long before the scene exploded. Their downtown spot pours everything from flagship favorites to small-batch releases you won't find anywhere else, each brewed with the quality, creativity and consistency the brand is known for. The atmosphere is relaxed and inviting, making it an easy stop for after-work pints, casual dinners or weekend tastings. Good beer, good food and a crew that knows their craft — it's everything a local brewery should be.

1157 Columbia St Ste 1167, San Diego  
(619) 234-2739 | karlstrauss.com

## Best Brunch

### 6th & G Breakfast Co.

6th & G Breakfast Co. has become a downtown favorite for people who want brunch that feels both comforting and a little elevated. Their menu leans into fresh ingredients and generous portions — fluffy pancakes, savory skillets and egg dishes that hit the spot without trying too hard. The atmosphere is relaxed, the service is upbeat and there's always something brewing that pairs perfectly with a slow weekend morning. It's the kind of place where locals return because it's consistent, satisfying and always welcoming.

695 Sixth Ave, San Diego  
(619) 349-4890 | breakfast-co.com

## Best Burger The Smoking Gun

(See listing under Best Billiards)

## Best Burrito Hasta Mañana Cantina

Hasta Mañana Cantina brings serious burrito energy to Fifth Avenue, rolling up big flavors with that modern-cantina style they're known for. Their burritos are generously packed — tender meats, vibrant salsas and just the right balance of rice, beans and fillings so every bite hits. Regulars rave about the carne asada and the house-made sauces that give each burrito its kick. It's a lively spot with warm hospitality, great drinks and the kind of food that keeps downtown locals coming back the next day... and the day after that.

310 Fifth Ave, San Diego  
(858) 321-5515 | hastamananacantina.com

## Best Cafe

### Spill the Beans Coffee and Bagels

Spill the Beans has carved out its own corner of downtown coffee culture by pairing seriously good brews with a warm, neighborhood feel. Their baristas know their beans — pulling smooth espresso, crafting creative seasonal drinks and keeping the vibe friendly even on busy mornings. The space has a laid-back energy that invites you to linger, whether you're grabbing a quick latte or settling in with your laptop. Add in the aroma of fresh bagels coming out of the oven, and it's no wonder locals keep this place in their daily rotation.

555 Market St, San Diego  
(619) 233-3836 | spillthebeanssd.com

## Best Car Wash

### Uptown Car Wash

Uptown Car Wash — a family-owned fixture on Normal Street since 1988 — doesn't just rinse cars, it treats them with care. They mix a fast, express drive-through wash system (updated equipment from 2021) with a hand-prep and hand-dry process that pays attention to every detail, from wheels and door jambs to trim and tires. You can add interior detailing, carpet or seat shampoo or even a full paint-protection treatment with ceramic or graphene wax. For frequent drivers, their "Unlimited Wash Club" gives easy, budget-friendly access to regular washes and discounts on detailing. It's all about clean, shiny protected vehicles — every time.

4157 Normal St, San Diego  
(619) 297-9274  
uptowncarwashsandiego.com

## Best Casual Dining Fonda del Barrio

Fonda del Barrio brings the spirit of Barrio Logan straight to the table — vibrant flavors, colorful plates and that warm, easy hospitality the neighborhood is known for. Owners Marco and Vanessa built the restaurant around family recipes and community pride, and it shows in everything from their fresh-pressed tortillas to the bold, modern twists on regional Mexican

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858.488.0885  
CassStreetAuto.com

Mission Hills Automotive AAA  
approved repair facility

308 W. Washington St.  
619.299.9367  
Open Monday through Friday

dishes. The space is relaxed and lively, the kind of place where you can settle in for a full meal, grab a cocktail or share plates with a group. It's casual dining with real heart.

**2234 Logan Ave, San Diego**  
(619) 230-5240 | [fondadelbarrio.com](http://fondadelbarrio.com)

## Best Chinese Cuisine

### Cloak and Petal Little Italy

Cloak & Petal isn't easily defined by one category — and that's exactly why it swept several. Though rooted in modern Japanese cuisine, the restaurant blends Asian influences with artistic flair, earning top honors across Best Chinese, Best Japanese, and Best Sushi for its creative, high-impact approach. Chef-owner Akio Ishito leads the culinary vision, bringing a deep respect for tradition and a fearless style that pushes each dish into memorable territory. From meticulously crafted rolls to inventive shared plates layered with bold flavors and delicate textures, the food feels both elevated and welcoming. Set inside its dramatic cherry-blossom-filled dining room on India Street, Cloak & Petal is as much an experience as it is a meal — the kind of destination where locals bring out-of-town guests to show off the best of San Diego's dining scene.

**1953 India St, San Diego**  
(619) 501-5505 | [cloakandpetal.com](http://cloakandpetal.com)

## Best Chiropractor

### Inner Balance Institute

Inner Balance Institute has earned a trusted reputation for taking chiropractic care beyond the quick adjustment. Led by Dr. Andrew D. Bang, the practice focuses on long-term wellness and personalized treatment plans that address the root of pain. Patients appreciate the thorough evaluations, gentle techniques and the way the team takes time to explain what's going on in the body — and how to keep it feeling better. From athletes to desk-bound professionals, people return because they feel heard, cared for and genuinely improved after each visit.

**842 Washington St, Suite A, San Diego**  
(619) 543-9999 | [innerbalanceinstitute.com](http://innerbalanceinstitute.com)

## Best Cocktails

### Fonda del Barrio

(See listing under Best Appetizer)

## Best Coffee Shop

### Spill the Beans Coffee and Bagels

(See listing under Best Cafe)

## Best Consignment/Resale

### Out of the Closet

Out of the Closet is one of those rare thrift stores where you walk in looking for "just one thing" and leave with a bag full of treasures. Known for its constantly rotating mix of cloth-

[timesofsandiego.com](http://timesofsandiego.com)

ing, furniture, décor and quirky finds, this Fifth Avenue shop makes thrifting feel fun and effortless. Prices stay fair, the store is well organized and the staff keeps the atmosphere upbeat. Even better — every purchase helps support HIV/AIDS services through the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. It's shopping that feels good in every way.

**3580 Fifth Ave, San Diego**  
(619) 785-3634 | [outofthecloset.org](http://outofthecloset.org)

## Best Construction

### Craftsman Foundation Repair

Craftsman Foundation Repair has built its reputation on doing the kind of work most homeowners never want to think about — and doing it exceptionally well. Specializing in foundation stabilization, drainage solutions and structural repair, their team approaches every job with precision and honesty. Clients appreciate the clear explanations, fair assessments and the way the crew treats each home as if it were their own. Whether it's cracking concrete, settling floors or moisture issues, Craftsman delivers long-term solutions that keep San Diego homes safe and sound.

**3528 Adams Ave, San Diego**  
(619) 295-1230 | [craftsmanfoundation.com](http://craftsmanfoundation.com)

## Best Cosmetic Services

### RevivaMed Plastic Surgery

RevivaMed Plastic Surgery is known for its thoughtful, natural-looking results and a calm, boutique-style setting in the heart of Downtown. Led by Dr. Ronald Edelson, a long-practicing surgeon recognized for his short-scar facelift techniques and balanced, refined rhinoplasty work, the practice focuses on creating personalized treatment plans rather than standard packages. Patients appreciate the discreet location, the welcoming environment and the range of surgical and minimal-downtime non-surgical options designed to help them look refreshed without appearing "done."

**711 Fourth Avenue, Suite 200, San Diego**  
(619) 232-3040 | [revivamed.com](http://revivamed.com)

## Best Credit Union

### Mission Fed Credit Union

Mission Fed Credit Union has built its reputation on personal service and local commitment — values that fit well with the Little Italy community. Members appreciate the straightforward banking options, lower fees and the sense of trust that comes from working with a San Diego-based credit union. Whether it's everyday banking, auto loans or financial guidance, this branch keeps things simple and genuinely helpful, making it an easy choice for anyone looking for a more personal alternative to the big banks.

**1370 India St, San Diego, CA 92101**  
(800) 500-6328 | [missionfed.com](http://missionfed.com)

## Best Deli

### Lazy Acres Natural Market

Lazy Acres isn't your typical deli counter — it's the Mission Hills go-to for fresh, clean thoughtfully prepared food. Their deli case is always packed with bright salads, roasted meats and seasonal sides that feel homemade without the effort. Regulars love the wholesome grab-and-go options, the rotating hot bar and the quality ingredients you can trust. Whether you're picking up lunch or stocking the fridge, Lazy Acres delivers that easy, everyday gourmet feel this neighborhood appreciates.

**422 W Washington St, San Diego, CA 92103**  
(619) 272-4289 | [lazyacres.com](http://lazyacres.com)

## Best Dentist

### Marina District Dentistry

Marina District Dentistry has earned a loyal following by keeping dentistry calm, clear and genuinely patient-focused. Their team is known for being warm and detail-oriented, taking the time to explain options without pressure. Patients appreciate the modern technology, gentle approach and the way appointments always feel efficient rather than rushed. It's the kind of practice where people actually look forward to coming back — cleanings, cosmetic treatments or anything in between. A solid choice for anyone living or working near the waterfront.

**701 Kettner Blvd, San Diego**  
(619) 234-8602 | [marinadistrictdentistry.com](http://marinadistrictdentistry.com)

## Best Dermatologist (tie)

### The Skin Clinic MD

### Seaver Soon MD

The Skin Clinic MD, led by Dr. Seaver Soon, has become a trusted spot for personalized, science-forward skin care. Patients appreciate Dr. Soon's calm, thorough approach — he's known for taking the time to explain treatment plans in a way that feels reassuring, not rushed. From medical dermatology to cosmetic procedures, the clinic blends advanced technology with a friendly, boutique atmosphere that puts people at ease. It's a go-to for anyone looking for thoughtful care and natural-looking results.

**4060 4th Ave, Suite 415, San Diego**  
(619) 501-1368 | [theskinclinicmd.com](http://theskinclinicmd.com)

## Best Desserts

### Extraordinary Desserts

Extraordinary Desserts has been a San Diego favorite for decades, known for its jewel-box cakes, lush pastries and over-the-top presentation that feels like a celebration in itself. Karen Krasne's globally inspired desserts are crafted with premium ingredients, delicate flavors and a level of artistry that makes every slice photo-worthy. Whether you're picking up a signature chocolate cake, lingering over tea,

or treating guests to something unforgettable, this spot consistently delivers the "wow" factor — both in taste and design.

**2870 Fourth Ave, San Diego**  
(619) 294-2132 | [extraordinarydesserts.com](http://extraordinarydesserts.com)

## Best Diner

### Rudford's

Rudford's is the kind of diner every neighborhood wishes it had — open 24/7 since 1949 and packed with the charm, stories, and scratch-made comfort food that define a true San Diego classic. Founded by Tommy Rudford, the restaurant quickly became a home away from home for generations of locals, night-owls, workers, families, and anyone craving a hearty meal at any hour. The retro booths, friendly service, and "breakfast anytime" menu keep the tradition alive, making Rudford's not just a diner but a living piece of North Park history.

**2900 El Cajon Blvd, San Diego**  
(619) 282-8423 | [rudfords.com](http://rudfords.com)

## Best Dinner

### Louisiana Purchase

(See listing under Best Appetizer)

## Best Donuts

### Dunkin'

Sometimes you just want the classics, and Dunkin' delivers exactly that — fresh donuts, hot coffee and quick service without any fuss. The downtown shop keeps the cases stocked with all the familiar favorites, from glazed and chocolate frosted to seasonal specials that rotate throughout the year. It's an easy stop for commuters, students and anyone grabbing a pick-me-up on the go. Reliable, simple and always consistent — that's why Dunkin' stays a fan favorite.

**605 C St, Suite A, San Diego**  
(619) 310-5151 | [dunkindonuts.com](http://dunkindonuts.com)

## Best Festival / Community Event

### Artwalk Little Italy

ArtWalk Little Italy has become one of San Diego's signature cultural events — a vibrant weekend where hundreds of artists line the streets with original work, live music fills the plazas and families wander through one of the city's most creative neighborhoods. It's the perfect blend of local talent, neighborhood pride and accessible art that makes people return year after year. Whether you're browsing, buying or just soaking in the energy, ArtWalk always feels like San Diego at its best.

**Little Italy, San Diego**  
[artwalksandiego.org](http://artwalksandiego.org)

## Best Farmer's Market

### Hillcrest Farmers Market

Hillcrest Farmers Market is one of those Sunday traditions locals genuinely look forward to. With more than 150 vendors, it's a colorful mix

of farm-fresh produce, global foods, handmade goods and the kind of neighborhood energy that makes Hillcrest feel like home. Shoppers come for the quality, but stay for the music, the community vibe and the chance to support local farmers and small makers. It's easily one of the most vibrant and consistent markets in the county — and a great way to kick off the week.

**3960 Normal St., San Diego**  
(619) 299-3330 | hillcrestfarmersmarket.com

### Best Financial Planner

#### **Tom Gibbings - Prime Capital Financial**

Tom Gibbings is the kind of planner people recommend to their friends — thoughtful, steady and focused on real-world results. Clients appreciate his clear explanations and his ability to take the stress out of decisions around retirement, investments and long-term planning. He's known for listening closely, tailoring strategies to each household and keeping the process grounded rather than overwhelming. With a reputation built on trust and follow-through, Tom has become a go-to advisor for many San Diegans looking to secure their financial future.

**2550 Fifth Avenue #709, San Diego**  
(619) 501-7501 ext. 3023  
Fax: (619) 718-6522  
tgibbings@2020fa.com · 2020fa.com

### Best Fine Dining

#### **Frenchy's Hideout**

Frenchy's Hideout has quickly become one of Uptown's most talked-about dining rooms, earning not only Best Fine Dining but also Best New Restaurant — a rare double win that says everything about its impact. Chef/owner Frenchy Brouillette brings a playful, unpretentious touch to French-inspired comfort food, blending classic techniques with the laid-back charm of University Heights. Guests rave about the rich sauces, slow-braised dishes, perfectly crisp steak frites and seasonal specials that feel indulgent without slipping into formality. The room is intimate, the hospitality heartfelt and the plates arrive with that "someone-who-loves-cooking-made-this" energy. It's the kind of neighborhood bistro people instantly adopt as their new favorite.

**142 W University Ave, Ste C, San Diego**  
frenchyshideout.com | (858) 345-7379

### Best Fish Taco

#### **Las Hadas Bar and Grill**

Las Hadas cranks up the downtown energy with a menu that leans into bold Mexican flavors and plenty of fun. Think sizzling fajitas, seafood platters loaded with fresh fish, and saucy enchiladas alongside street-style tacos that taste even better on Taco Tuesday. The real temptation, though, is the bar: handmade

margaritas, tequila flights, spicy specialty cocktails, and one of the better happy hours in the Gaslamp. It's colorful, a little loud, and exactly where you go when you want Mexican food that feels like a night out, not just a meal with friends.

**558 Fourth Ave, San Diego**  
(619) 232-1720 | lashadasgrillsd.com

### Best Florist

#### **Dave's Flower Box**

Dave's Flower Box has been a neighborhood staple for decades, known for its friendly service, fresh blooms and the kind of personal touch only a long-time local shop can deliver. Established in the mid-1970s, the shop has grown with North Park and continues to be the go-to florist for birthdays, weddings, memorials and those last-minute "just because" moments. Customers appreciate the consistency and beautiful arrangements, fair prices and a team that truly cares. It's the kind of San Diego business people return to year after year.

**3795 Park Blvd, San Diego**  
(619) 291-7673 | davesflowerbox.com

### Best Gift Shop

#### **The Museum Store at The San Diego Museum of Art**

The Museum Store at The San Diego Museum of Art blends culture, creativity and craftsmanship into one of the most unique shopping experiences in Balboa Park. Visitors love that every item—whether it's a finely curated art book, a handmade piece by a local artisan or a museum-inspired collectible—feels purposeful and thoughtfully chosen. The store rotates selections tied to current exhibitions, making each visit feel fresh. It's a favorite stop for gifts with meaning, supporting both artists and the museum's mission to keep the arts thriving in San Diego.

**1450 El Prado, San Diego**  
(619) 232-7931 | smart.org

### Best Greek

#### **Meze Greek Fusion**

Mezé Greek Fusion brings big flavor and big personality to the Gaslamp. Run by brothers Raymond and Patrick Davoudi along with partner Aleko Achitpés, the team is known for greeting diners with an energetic "OPA!" as their signature saganaki is lit tableside. The menu blends Mediterranean traditions with fresh, SoCal ingredients, all served in a high-energy space with indoor/outdoor seating, sky-high ceilings and a lively bar. From vegetarians to carnivores, everyone finds something memorable here—whether it's a family dinner, a special celebration or a quick bite before a Padres game.

**345 Sixth Ave, San Diego**  
(619) 550-1600 | gaslampmeze.com

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Our menu blends approachable elegance with the rich traditions of French cuisine, offering both regular dinner service and immersive course tasting menus. Each dish is carefully crafted and paired with wines that tell a story.



### HOURS

#### LUNCH

Tues-Fri **12 PM - 3 PM**

#### VERY HAPPY HOUR

Tues-Thurs **3 PM - 6 PM**

Fri-Sat **3 PM - 5 PM**

Bar | Hightop | Patio

#### DINNER

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Sunday **9 AM - 2:30 PM**

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San Diego, CA 92103

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Reservations

**Best Hair Salon****BB Meme Salon**

BB Meme Salon has earned a loyal following in Hillcrest for its modern cuts, natural-looking color work and a warm, creative energy that reflects its owner, Koji Kuninaga. After nearly two decades as a stylist in Japan—and several national hair photography awards—Koji opened the salon in 2013 with a simple goal: make people feel confident and seen. Today, the team is known for thoughtful consultations, wedding and special-occasion styling, and a reputation for blending technique with artistry. Clients come for the skill, but stay for the experience.

**1727 University Ave, San Diego,**  
(619) 544-6811  
[bbmemehairsalon.com/hillcrest](http://bbmemehairsalon.com/hillcrest)

**Best Happy Hour****The Whiskey House**

(See listing under Best Bar)

**Best Hardware Store****Hillcrest Ace Hardware**

Hillcrest Ace Hardware has become the neighborhood's go-to spot for people who actually enjoy getting things done. Opened in 1996 and independently owned, it's the kind of store where you can walk in with a vague description of a problem and walk out with exactly what you need — plus a little confidence. Their crew is known for remembering faces, offering practical advice and keeping the shop stocked with everything from keys and fasteners to paint, garden supplies and those hard-to-find odds and ends only a true hardware store carries. It's local service in the best sense.

**1003 University Ave, San Diego**  
(619) 291-5988 | [hillcresthardware.com](http://hillcresthardware.com)

**Best Health Food Store****SD Discount Nutrition**

SD Discount Nutrition has built a loyal following by doing something rare in the supplement world — offering top-tier products, real guidance, and prices that consistently beat online and wholesale. Their team of NAFC-certified nutrition coaches sets them apart, giving shoppers honest advice rooted in science, not sales. With thousands of items on the shelves and a “Triple Five-Star” rating across Yelp, Facebook and Google, it's clear the community trusts them. Whether you're training hard, rebuilding your health or simply trying to feel better day-to-day, this shop is a go-to for results and reliability.

**650 First Ave, San Diego**  
(619) 237-9399 | [sddiscountnutrition.com](http://sddiscountnutrition.com)

**Best Hospital****UCSD - Hillcrest**

UCSD Hillcrest has long served as one of San

Diego's most trusted medical anchors, especially for Uptown neighborhoods that rely on its 24/7 emergency care, skilled specialists and cutting-edge treatments. As the flagship of UC San Diego Health's expanding network, the Hillcrest campus blends world-class research with community-minded patient care. Generations of San Diegans have relied on them for everything from routine checkups and imaging to life-saving trauma services. With major redevelopment underway, UCSD Hillcrest continues to modernize while staying rooted in its mission of accessible, top-tier healthcare.

**200 W. Arbor Dr, San Diego**  
(858) 657-7000 | [health.ucsd.edu/](http://health.ucsd.edu/)

**Best Hot Wings****The Smoking Gun**

(See listing under Best Billiards)

**Best Ice Cream/Frozen Yogurt****North Park Creamery**

North Park Creamery has become a neighborhood favorite by doing things the honest way—small-batch, thoughtfully sourced and always made in-house. Their flavors strike that balance between nostalgic and inventive, whether it's a classic scoop done perfectly or a rotating seasonal blend inspired by local produce. The shop has a warm, lived-in feel that makes people linger, and regulars love chatting with the team about what's coming out of the churn next. It's the kind of place where quality shows, and community naturally gathers.

**3077 University Ave, San Diego**  
(619) 228-9088 | [northparkcreamery.com](http://northparkcreamery.com)

**Best Indian****Royal India**

Royal India has long been a standout in downtown's dining scene, known for its elegant approach to traditional Indian cuisine and a level of hospitality that feels personal. Their menu highlights slow-cooked curries, tandoori specialties and family recipes that have earned them a loyal following. Beyond the restaurant, Royal Banquet and their catering team handle everything from intimate celebrations to large events with the same attention to detail. It's a place where fine dining, warm service and cultural pride all come together.

**329 Market Street, San Diego**  
(619) 269-9999 | [royalindia.com](http://royalindia.com)

**Best Interior Design****Jules Wilson Design Studio**

Jules Wilson Design Studio has spent nearly two decades shaping some of San Diego's most thoughtful spaces, blending refined aesthetics with a deep understanding of how people really live, work and gather. Founded in 2005, the studio grew from a small team into a sought-after boutique firm known for its clean lines, layered textures and quietly sophisticated style.

Jules' global influences—from European architecture to contemporary art—show up in every project, whether residential, hospitality or wellness. Their collaborative approach keeps designers, architects and builders working in sync, resulting in spaces that feel effortless, intentional and timeless.

**350 G St, San Diego**  
(619) 546-4930 | [juleswilsondesign.com](http://juleswilsondesign.com)

**Best Irish Pub****The Field Irish Pub**

The Field feels like a slice of Ireland tucked into the Gaslamp, and that's no accident. Since day one, it's been owned and operated by the Drayne family—an Irish family that genuinely knows a thing or two about Irish pubs. Much of the interior was shipped directly from Ireland, giving the space its broken-in charm and that classic pub coziness. Locals come for the proper pours, the live music and hearty comfort dishes, but stay because it feels authentic, warm and lived-in. It's a gathering place in the truest sense.

**544 Fifth Ave, San Diego**  
(619) 232-9840 | [thefield.com](http://thefield.com)

**Best Italian Cuisine****Mona Lisa Italian Foods**

Mona Lisa Italian Foods is one of those rare places that still feels like the Little Italy so many San Diegans grew up with. Family-owned since 1956, it started as a small deli and has grown into a beloved hub for Italian comfort food, hard-to-find imports and sandwiches locals swear by. Generations of the Quarta family have kept the traditions intact — recipes passed down, friendly counter service and a market that feels like stepping into old-world Italy. It's the kind of spot where regulars become extended family.

**2061 India St, San Diego**  
(619) 234-4893 | [monalisalittleitaly.com](http://monalisalittleitaly.com)

**Best Japanese****Cloak and Petal Little Italy**

(See listing under Best Chinese)

**Best Jeweler****Vincero Collective**

Vincero Collective has built its reputation on the idea that meaningful moments deserve pieces crafted with intention. Their watches, jewelry and lifestyle accessories blend timeless design with durable materials, giving customers something that feels both personal and built to last. Founded on the motto ONE DAY OR DAY ONE™, the brand encourages people to mark their milestones and everyday wins with goods made to be worn, remembered and passed forward. It's a modern showroom with a loyal following and a commitment to craftsmanship that never cuts corners.

**311 4th Ave, San Diego**  
(888) 874-3450 | [vincerocollective.com](http://vincerocollective.com)

**Best Juice/Juice Bar****Vitality Tap**

Vitality Tap has earned its following by keeping things simple: fresh ingredients, clean blends and a staff that genuinely cares about helping people feel better. Their juices and wellness shots lean on real fruits, vegetables and functional add-ins—no shortcuts. Regulars love that the team remembers names, offers suggestions based on goals and treats everyone like part of the neighborhood. With a near-perfect review score and years of consistency, it's become a trusted stop for anyone looking to reset, recharge or grab something healthy on the go.

**650 First Ave., San Diego**  
(619) 237-7625 | [vitalitytap.com](http://vitalitytap.com)

**Best Landscape Design****Balin Butler Landscape Design**

Balin Butler Landscape Design has earned a loyal following by treating every outdoor space as its own story — one shaped by the land, the light and the way people truly live. Balin has spent more than two decades designing residential landscapes in both the Bay Area and San Diego, bringing a thoughtful blend of architecture, ecology and artistry to each project. Clients appreciate the firm's calm, collaborative process, from early site analysis through final construction drawings. The result is work that feels grounded, livable and beautifully tailored to each home.

**4384 Cleveland Ave, San Diego**  
(619) 241-5091 | [balinbutler.com](http://balinbutler.com)

**Best Live Music****Casbah**

The Casbah is one of those rare music venues that feels woven into the city's DNA. Opened in 1989, it helped launch countless San Diego bands and has hosted everyone from rising indie acts to touring legends—always up close and loud enough to feel it in your chest. Locals love it for the intimacy, the no-nonsense bar and the way every night still feels a bit gritty in the best possible way. It's a room where musicians come to earn fans, and fans come to discover something real.

**2501 Kettner Blvd, San Diego**  
(619) 232-4355 | [casbahmusic.com](http://casbahmusic.com)

**Best Local Attractions****Balboa Park**

Balboa Park isn't just a destination — it's the heartbeat of San Diego. Generations of locals have grown up wandering its gardens, museums, trail, and quiet corners, each creating their own connection to the city's crown jewel. From the leafy pathways near the lily pond to the vibrant cultural institutions that line El Prado, the park blends history, architecture, nature and community in a way few places can.

Whether you're catching a show, enjoying a picnic or simply taking a walk to clear your mind, Balboa Park always feels like home.

**San Diego, CA**  
(619) 239-0512 | [balboapark.org](http://balboapark.org)

## Best Lunch

### Hasta Mañana Cantina

Hasta Mañana Cantina is best known for its elevated Baja-Mex comfort food — especially their street-style tacos, slow-braised birria, and crispy carnitas. Guests also rave about their fresh-pressed tortillas, hand-shaken margaritas and creative shareable plates like queso fundido, elote and ceviche. It's casual, colorful and very Gaslamp — a fun lunch spot because the food comes out fast, the portions are generous and everything is bright, flavorful and never trying too hard. It's sure to become a favorite before walk out the door.

**310 Fifth Ave, San Diego**  
(858) 321-5515 | [hastamananacantina.com](http://hastamananacantina.com)

## Best Massage

### The NOW Massage (Little Italy)

The NOW has become a favorite retreat for people who want more than a massage — they want a complete reset. The space is intentionally calm and natural, designed to quiet the noise of daily life so you can tune in to what your body actually needs. Therapists focus on personalized treatments instead of one-size-fits-all routines, offering everything from deep therapeutic work to gentle restorative sessions. It's the kind of place where an hour feels like a true pause, helping you show up for yourself and walk out centered and refreshed.

**2100 Kettner Blvd., Ste. 1600,**  
(619) 915-0768 | [thenowmassage.com](http://thenowmassage.com)

## Best Mediterranean

### Callie

Callie brings a fresh, sun-lit take on Mediterranean cooking, shaped by Chef Travis Swickard's years at Daniel Boulud's New York restaurant, Boulud Sud. His time immersed in the flavors of Greece, Spain, Italy, Morocco and the Middle East shows up in every dish — bright, generous and rooted in seasonality. When he returned home to San Diego, he blended those traditions with the farms, fishermen and ingredients of Southern California, creating what he calls Cuisine du Soleil. Since opening in 2021, Callie has earned national attention and remains one of downtown's most celebrated dining experiences.

**1195 Island Ave, San Diego**  
(619) 255-9696 | [calliesd.com](http://calliesd.com)

## Best Mexican

### Fonda del Barrio

(See listing under Best Appetizer)

## Best New Restaurant

### Frenchy's Hideout

(See listing under Best Fine Dining)

## Best Optometrist

### Urban Optiks

Urban Optiks isn't your typical optometry office — it's a full experience built around craftsmanship, advanced technology and true one-on-one care. Patients come here for precise eye exams and stay loyal because the team consistently goes beyond expectations, treating vision as both a science and an art. The boutique itself feels alive, filled with warm textures, live plants and sustainably sourced décor that highlights their curated eyewear collection. Frames range from classic to modern to bold, all handcrafted by independent designers. It's thoughtful, upbeat and refreshingly personal eye care in the heart of Uptown.

**3788 Park Blvd., San Diego**  
(619) 683-2020 | [uoosd.com](http://uoosd.com)

## Best Patio Dining

### The Prado at Balboa Park

The Prado is one of those rare San Diego landmarks where history, architecture and great food all meet on the same sun-drenched patio. Housed in the 1915 House of Hospitality — a centerpiece of the Panama-California Exposition — the restaurant is surrounded by hand-painted beams, Spanish-Moorish details and views of the lush Casa del Rey Moro Garden. The menu blends modern California cooking with Spanish influences, from calamari fries to their beloved Prado Paella. It's also one of the city's most sought-after venues for weddings and special occasions, thanks to its romantic terraces and beautiful event spaces.

**1549 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92101**  
(619) 557-9441 | [pradobalboa.com](http://pradobalboa.com)

## Best Pet Friendly

### Fernside

Fernside has earned a loyal following for one big reason: it genuinely welcomes both you and your four-legged sidekick. Their patio is spacious, shaded and laid-back—exactly the kind of spot where dogs can relax while their humans enjoy a proper meal. And the food isn't an afterthought. Fernside turns out elevated bar favorites with real flavor, from their crispy chicken sandwich to their house-made pickles, wings and seasonal specials. Add in great cocktails, friendly staff and a neighborhood feel, and it's clear why locals keep coming back with paws in tow.

**1946 Fern St., San Diego**  
(619) 255-9591 | [fernsidebar.com](http://fernsidebar.com)

## Best Pho

### Pho Point Loma & Grill

Pho Point Loma & Grill has earned a loyal fol-

lowing for its comforting, deeply flavorful bowls of pho — the kind made with long-simmered broth, fresh herbs and generous cuts of meat. It's the place locals turn to when they want something restorative, satisfying and full of heart. Beyond the pho, guests love the crisp spring rolls, chargrilled plates and fast, friendly service that keeps the dining room buzzing. Whether you're grabbing a quick lunch or warming up on a cool evening, it's a neighborhood favorite for a reason.

**2788 Midway Dr., San Diego**  
(619) 226-6502 | [phopointlomagrill.com](http://phopointlomagrill.com)

## Thank You for the Votes!

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[FAIROUZCAFEANDGALLERY.COM](http://FAIROUZCAFEANDGALLERY.COM)

Dine in and Take Out

## Best Physical Therapist/ Rehab

### The Physical Therapy Effect

The Physical Therapy Effect has built its reputation on truly personalized care — every session is one-on-one with a licensed Doctor of Physical Therapy who takes the time to understand your goals, limitations and lifestyle. Their team focuses on restoring mobility, reducing pain and getting people back to the activities they love without unnecessary downtime. It's a welcoming, results-driven clinic where education is part of the treatment and progress is measured in real-life freedom, not just charts. Compassionate, attentive and highly skilled, they help pa-

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tients move forward with confidence.

**1601 Kettner Blvd., Ste. 11, San Diego**  
(619) 544-1055 | [thepeffect.com](http://thepeffect.com)

## Best Pilates

### Pilates of San Diego

Pilates of San Diego has earned a loyal following by creating studios that feel less like workout spaces and more like calm, restorative retreats. Their instructors focus on form, breath and mindful movement, giving each student the attention needed to build strength safely and confidently. What keeps people coming back is the atmosphere — supportive, warm and genuinely community-driven. Whether you're recovering from injury, leveling up your fitness or simply carving out time to reconnect with yourself, this is a place where the mind-body-spirit connection is taken seriously.

**450 10th Ave., San Diego**  
(858) 209-3833 | [pilatesofsandiego.com](http://pilatesofsandiego.com)

## Best Pizza

### Mr. Moto Pizza

Mr. Moto has become a Downtown favorite by keeping things simple: great slices, fun flavors and a little bit of attitude. Their lineup is big on personality — from classic New York-style cheese to creative pies loaded with all the good stuff — and the slices are the kind you grab on the go and immediately wish you'd ordered two. The atmosphere is casual, quick and a little cheeky, just like a good slice shop should be. It's the spot you hit when you want something satisfying without the fuss.

**1702 India St., San Diego**  
(877) 271-1569 | [mrmotopizza.com](http://mrmotopizza.com)

## Best Plumber

### RDZ Plumbing and Drains

RDZ Plumbing & Drains has earned a loyal following for one simple reason — they show up when you need them most and they get the job done right. Known for fast emergency repairs, clear communication and experienced technicians who don't oversell or complicate things, they've become a reliable go-to for homeowners and businesses alike. RDZ is available seven days a week, handles everything from stubborn drains to full plumbing fixes and backs their work with an exceptional service guarantee.

**4681 36th St., San Diego**  
(619) 760-2899 | [rdzplumbing.com](http://rdzplumbing.com)

## Best Real Estate

### North Properties

North Properties, led by owner Tom North, has earned a strong reputation for helping buyers and sellers navigate San Diego's diverse real estate landscape. Their team combines deep local knowledge with hands-on service, whether you're searching for a coastal home, a

modern urban loft, or a quiet neighborhood retreat. With a portfolio that spans residential, commercial and investment properties, North Properties guides clients through every step—consultation, strategy, negotiation and closing. Their expertise extends throughout the greater San Diego area, reflecting a true understanding of the city's neighborhoods, lifestyle markets and property types.

**325 West Washington St., San Diego**  
(619) 493-2535 | [northprops.com](http://northprops.com)

## Best Real Estate Agent

### Vicki Dutch-Jones

Vicki Dutch-Jones built her real estate career on the same strengths that defined her years as a flight attendant: calm under pressure, genuine care for people and exceptional service. Licensed since 2003, she guides buyers and sellers with clear communication, smart preparation and a steady hand through every step of the process. Her clients trust her to advocate for their best outcome, whether securing the right home or maximizing a sale. A top 10% worldwide producer with Coldwell Banker West, Vicki continues to set the standard for professionalism and results.

**410 Kalmia Street, San Diego**  
(619) 723-7010 | [Coldwell Banker West](http://Coldwell Banker West)

## Best Real Estate Office

### Roots Real Estate

Roots Real Estate has built its name on trust, guidance and a genuine commitment to helping people plant themselves in the right place. Led by Jody Guada, a longtime North Park professional with more than 20 years of financial and real estate experience, the team approaches every client with clarity and heart. Jody's philosophy goes beyond transactions—she advocates for wealth in all its forms, whether that means stability, joy or peace of mind. It's a neighborhood-focused office that treats every move like a milestone.

**3919 30th St., San Diego**  
(619) 850-5639 | [rootsrealestate.co](http://rootsrealestate.co)

## Best Remodeling/Renovations

### Sheiner Construction

Sheiner Construction has earned its reputation as one of San Diego's most trusted names in full-home remodeling. They're licensed general contractors known for quality craftsmanship, clear communication and a "build it to last" philosophy. From kitchens and bathrooms to ADUs and full home additions, their team handles projects with care and precision. They make the process as stress-free as possible, offering free estimates and a true partnership approach that keeps homeowners involved at every step.

**1080 8th Ave., San Diego**  
(619) 577-3749  
[sheinerconstruction.com](http://sheinerconstruction.com)

[timesofsandiego.com](http://timesofsandiego.com)

## Best Restaurant Group

### Good Time Designs

Good Time Designs has helped define San Diego's dining and nightlife scene for nearly two decades, building the kind of places people go to celebrate, unwind and make memories. Founded in 2006 by hospitality entrepreneur Ty Hauter, the group's portfolio highlights some of the city's most energetic and recognizable spots, including Moonshine Flats, Moonshine Beach, and The Blind Burro. Their earlier San Diego projects, such as Wave House, Bootlegger, Bub's at the Ballpark, and Typhoon Saloon, cemented their reputation for creating venues with personality and staying power. Rooted in design, construction, entertainment and hospitality, Good Time Designs continues to evolve while staying true to its mission: crafting restaurants and bars that bring people together with good food, great music and a lively, unmistakably San Diego atmosphere.

**715 J Street, Ste. 206, San Diego**  
(619) 501-4600 | [goodtimedesignsd.com](http://goodtimedesignsd.com)

## Best Retirement Living

### Merrill Gardens

Merrill Gardens at Bankers Hill offers seniors a comfortable, connected lifestyle in one of San Diego's most vibrant neighborhoods. Just north of downtown and steps from Balboa Park, residents enjoy easy access to world-class healthcare, neighborhood shopping and some of the city's best cultural attractions. The community is designed for independence with support when needed, creating a balanced, stress-free way of living. With the zoo, the bay, theaters, universities and local dining all within minutes, it's a location that truly enriches daily life.

**2567 Second Ave., San Diego**  
(858) 239-1263 | [merrillgardens.com](http://merrillgardens.com)

## Best Sandwich

### barleymash

(See listing under Best Ahi Poke)

## Best Seafood

### Louisiana Purchase

Louisiana Purchase serves up bold, Bayou-inspired seafood with a San Diego twist. This North Park standout wins fans fast with its rich flavors, creative cocktails and that unmistakable New Orleans flair. Crowd favorites like the charbroiled oysters, blackened catch and crispy gator bites keep the energy high, while the warm, lively vibe makes it a go-to for dinner with friends or a fun night out. It's Southern comfort with attitude — and clearly the neighborhood's pick for Best Seafood.

**2305 University Ave., San Diego**  
(619) 304-9767  
[louisianapurchasesd.com](http://louisianapurchasesd.com)

## Best Solar Company

### Premain Roofing-Solar

Premain Roofing-Solar has earned a strong following for doing the job right the first time. Their team handles everything from roof repairs and full replacements to custom solar installs that help homeowners cut energy costs for the long haul. They're known for clear communication, reliable timelines and standing behind their work with solid maintenance options and warranties. Whether it's residential or commercial, they make the process smooth and stress-free — a one-stop shop for durable roofs and smart solar solutions.

**875 34th St., San Diego**  
(619) 568-2762 | [premanroofing.com](http://premanroofing.com)

## Best Sports Bar

### The Smoking Gun

(See listing under Best Billiards)

## Best Steakhouse

### Born & Raised

Born & Raised brings a little throwback swagger to the modern steakhouse. Known for its tableside flair, prime cuts and rooftop vibes, it's the kind of place where dinner feels like an occasion. The team takes their craft seriously — from dry-aging to the perfect char — and it shows in every plate. If you're looking for a classic steak experience with style (and maybe a martini or two), this North Little Italy favorite delivers every time.

**1909 India St., San Diego**  
(619) 202-4577 | [bornandraisedsteak.com](http://bornandraisedsteak.com)

## Best Sunday Brunch

### Louisiana Purchase

(See listing under Best Seafood)

## Best Sushi

### Cloak and Petal Little Italy

(See listing under Best Chinese)

## Best Tailor

### Sante Tailoring

Once you've found a tailor you can trust, you never let them go — and Sante Tailoring is exactly that kind of place. Known for sharp workmanship, clean lines and a no-nonsense approach, they handle everything from simple hems to detailed alterations with skill and consistency. Customers stick with them for years because the fit is always right, the service is friendly and the turnaround is reliable. It's the kind of neighborhood shop that quietly becomes indispensable.

**1150 Seventh Ave., San Diego** (619) 231-9898

## Best Tanning Salon

### Glow Up San Diego

Glow Up San Diego takes tanning to a healthier

level. Their spray tans use natural, organic, skin-friendly ingredients—no harsh chemicals, dyes or heavy alcohol bases. The result is a smooth, even, sun-kissed glow that hydrates as it develops. With botanical extracts, antioxidants and moisture-boosting nutrients, each tan is designed to look great and feel good on your skin. Fast-drying, clean, and beautifully natural, it's a glow you can feel good about.

**4026 Hawk St Suite G**  
(619) 792-4200 | [glowupsd.com](http://glowupsd.com)

## Best Thai Thai Island

Thai Island has been a downtown favorite for years, thanks to its warm service, quick turnaround and bold, comforting Thai flavors. Regulars swear by the freshness of the ingredients and the consistency of every dish that leaves the kitchen. Their panang curry is a crowd-pleaser—rich, aromatic and perfectly balanced—while the Tom Kah soup delivers that soothing mix of coconut, lemongrass and heat that keeps people coming back. Whether you're grabbing lunch or settling in for dinner, Thai Island is delicious and reliably good every time.

**1134 Seventh Ave, San Diego**  
(619) 232-7576 | [facebook.com/thai.island](http://facebook.com/thai.island)

## Best Vegetarian Plumeria Vegetarian Restaurant

Plumeria has long been a favorite for those who want rich, flavorful Thai cuisine made entirely vegetarian without losing any depth or heart. Their menu is packed with bright, fragrant dishes, but a few standouts consistently win people over—the spicy basil noodles, loaded with fresh herbs and heat, and the pumpkin curry, a silky, comforting classic with just the right balance of sweetness and spice. Portions are generous, the ingredients are fresh and everything is prepared with a level of care that keeps diners coming back.

**4661 Park Blvd, San Diego**  
(619) 269-9989 | [myplumeria.com](http://myplumeria.com)

## Best Veterinarian Amici Pet Hospital

Amici Pet Hospital of Little Italy is known for delivering warm, attentive care with a strong focus on what they call “Excellence today, for a healthier pet tomorrow.” Their veterinary team takes the time to make sure every pet receives thoughtful, high-quality treatment, whether it's a routine checkup or something more complex. Services include wellness exams, vaccinations, surgery, dental care, digital radiology, micro-chipping, flea control, lab work, nutritional guidance and on-site pharmacy support. Pet owners also appreciate the convenience of free parking making visits a whole lot easier.

**2135 Columbia St, San Diego**  
(619) 795-2400 | [amicipethospital.com](http://amicipethospital.com)

## Best Wine Bar

### Nolita Hall

Nolita Hall is the kind of place where the easy-going neighborhood crowd mixes naturally with people stopping in for a glass after work or a night out. The bright, Euro-inspired setting keeps things lively, and the generous wine list makes it just as fun to explore as it is to settle in with a favorite pour. But it's not just a wine bar—the full kitchen turns out wood-fired pizzas, fresh pasta, shareable plates, and seasonal dishes designed to pair beautifully with whatever you're drinking. Add in friendly service and a come-as-you-are atmosphere, and it's no surprise locals return again and again.

**2305 India St, San Diego**  
(619) 255-8000 | [nolitahall.com](http://nolitahall.com)

## Best Wine Selection

### Vino Carta

Vino Carta has become a go-to hangout for people who love discovering great wine without the pretense. The shelves are stocked with small-production bottles from independent winemakers, and the staff actually enjoys helping you find something new—whether you want funky, classic, bold or just “something good for tonight.” Their by-the-glass list rotates often, so there's always a reason to come back, and the easygoing neighborhood crowd makes it an inviting place to linger. It's a simple formula: good people, good pours, no attitude.

**2161 India St, San Diego**  
(619) 564-6589 | [vinocartasd.com](http://vinocartasd.com)

## Best Wine Shop

### Vino Carta

(See listing under Best Wine Selection)

## Best Wings barleymash

(See listing under Best Ahi Poke)

## Best Yoga Studio

### The Little Yoga Studio

The Little Yoga Studio is one of those rare downtown spaces that feels instantly grounding—warm lighting, real community, and classes that put connection above competition. Known for its intentionally small class sizes, the studio offers truly personalized attention, with instructors who remember your practice and meet you exactly where you are. They're also loved for their diversity of class styles, beginner-friendly approach, and commitment to keeping yoga accessible rather than overly commercialized. From restorative evenings to energizing morning flows, it's a neighborhood sanctuary where people come to breathe, reset, and actually feel seen.

**702 Ash St, San Diego**  
(619) 544-9642 | [littleyoga.studio](http://littleyoga.studio)

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 **THANK YOU!**

We at Sushi Deli would like to, once again, thank each and every one of our loyal customers for the continuous support! With you, our community is flourishing and memories are being made endlessly. We are immensely grateful for all the bonds that have been created at Sushi Deli.

Cheers to many more years!

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[sushideliusa.net](http://sushideliusa.net)

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