

ZAGAT

25 Most Anticipated San Diego Restaurants of 2017

BY DARLENE HORN | JANUARY 3, 2017



With a new year comes a slew of new restaurant openings. And for 2017, it looks like it'll be a year filled with plenty of restaurant expansions, as well as highly anticipated concepts and new joints to check out in suburban San Diego. Excited to see what 2017 has in store? Read below for the 25 most anticipated restaurant openings this year.

Officine Buona Forchetta

ETA: Early January

No need to travel to South Park for Buona Forchetta; you can find its Neapolitan-style pizzas at Liberty Station starting early in 2017. For this second locale, the emphasis is on alfresco dining. There'll be three patios, two custom-gilded pizza ovens, plus a third one dedicated to gluten-free pies. Partner and executive chef Mario Cassineri, currently of BICE, also has pasta dishes planned.

2865 Sims Rd.

Farmer's Table

ETA: January

Chef Alberto Morreale of Farmer's Bottega in Mission Hills is expanding his cooking influence to La Mesa with Farmer's Table. He's also acting as co-owner for this venture, so Morreale will be continuing the celebration of fresh produce and local flavors served up in time-tested family recipes.

8141 La Mesa Blvd., La Mesa

Lionfish/Oxford Social Club/Provisional Kitchen/Nason's Beer Hall/Fifth & Rose

ETA: January

There are several high-end concepts opening in January at the new Pendry Hotel in Downtown San Diego this year. For **Lionfish**, expect modern coastal cuisine featuring fresh-catch produce and prime meats prepped by executive chef Jose Ruiz. The two-floor dining room will be open for dinner only. The **Oxford Social Club** will cater to the nightlife side of things with a curated cocktail program plus intimate banquette seating and plush furniture. **Provisional Kitchen** aims to work as a casual restaurant selling gourmet food and will be headed by chef Chris Osborne, while **Nason's Beer Hall** will focus on the local craft scene. Lastly, **Fifth & Rose** will open up as a sophisticated watering hole serving upscale bar fare.

550 J St.

Voltaire Beach House

ETA: January

If there weren't enough reasons to visit the coastline, look for this new concept in Ocean Beach by owner David Schiffman. He and consulting chef Abe Botello will be bringing casual dining and local beers on tap to this new restaurant featuring a Nantucket Beach-inspired design to the area. The 3,000-square-foot space includes a wraparound bar inside and out, as well as a patio fireplace highlighted with antique copper design elements, rustic paint design and a spiral staircase to complete the beach haven feel.

4934 Voltaire St.

Hive

ETA: January/February

The owners of Chorus Karaoke are expanding their options beyond patron performances by opening up Hive in the Convoy District. For this venue, guests can enjoy 50 local beers on tap and a twist on craft cocktails using ingredients sourced locally.

4428 Convoy St. #290



Courtesy of Grater Grilled Cheese Del Mar

Grater Grilled Cheese Del Mar

ETA: February

San Diego's premier gourmet grilled cheese spot is opening its third location at the Del Mar Highlands Towne Center. Like at the spots in Mission Valley and La Jolla and its catered food truck, the menu focuses on classic grilled sammies made with a special blend of five cheeses by chef Gaston Corbala.

3545 Del Mar Heights Rd., Del Mar

Breakfast Republic East Village

ETA: February

This breakfast chain continues to dominate the local landscape, and in 2017 it will spread its appeal to the East Village. It'll offer an innovative and interesting menu filled with pancake flights plus regional specialties like Southern shrimp and grits, similar to the North Park, Liberty Station and Encinitas locations.

707 G St.



Courtesy of The Crack Shack Encinitas

The Crack Shack Encinitas

ETA: February

Owned by Mike Rosen with chefs Richard Blais and Jon Sloan, this fried chicken joint expands into Encinitas for its second restaurant. Expect more of the same as the original Little Italy spot, items such as chicken- and egg-centric sammies like The Royal and Firebird filled out with a bevy of salads and slaw, all served in the space's open-air 6,000-square-foot dining area.

407 Encinitas Blvd., Encinitas



Courtesy of Park 101 Carlsbad

Park 101 Carlsbad Village

ETA: February

The community around Carlsbad Village will have a new option for food and places to lounge with Park 101. Located in a 8,000-square-foot multilevel plaza-style restaurant, this family-friendly spot focuses on fresh dining that's grab-and-go ready. Features include a streetside walk-up window serving hot sandwiches and fresh juices, coffee, ice cream and pastries. Those looking to grab a beer will find the space also includes an indoor/outdoor garden pub with local brews on tap. The venue will also serve up BBQ and other grilled options.

3040 Carlsbad Blvd., Carlsbad



Courtesy of STK San Diego

STK San Diego

ETA: Early 2017

The Andaz San Diego hotel in the Gaslamp District will be home to STK San Diego in early 2017. The project by ONE Group is combining a sleek, modern steakhouse with a chic lounge complete with an in-house DJ. As for menu items, there will be reimagined American classics like bite-sized Lil' BRGs made with Wagyu beef in addition to entrees such as lobster mac 'n' cheese and, of course, steaks.

600 F St.

Red O

ETA: March

Hopes were high that this Mexican fusion restaurant with celeb chef Rick Bayless, acting

as chief consultant, would open before the end of 2016, but instead, look for doors to swing open in March in the UTC area. Existing locations for the Mexican-based mini-chain include Los Angeles, Newport Beach and Santa Monica.

4340 La Jolla Village Dr.



Courtesy of Born & Raised

Born & Raised

ETA: March

Little Italy will be hopping with Born & Raised taking over the former Nelson Photo Supplies building. The concept by CH Projects aims for a classic steakhouse feel for the 8,000-square-foot two-story venue. Plans include two oversized bars, three dedicated dining spaces, plus a main dining room. There's also a downstairs patio seating and rooftop terrace complete with urban garden for the restaurant's own use.

1909 India St.

North Park Breakfast Company

ETA: March

Breakfast is taking a healthier spin with this new concept by Johan Engman, founder and owner of Rise & Shine Restaurant Group, but you'll know him mostly for Breakfast Republic and Fig Tree Cafe. For North Park Breakfast Company, he's focusing on new items such as quinoa blueberry pancakes, guava-infused pancakes, stuffed sweet potato breakfast bakes and egg yolk-filled breakfast ravioli served with pork belly just to name a few.

3131 University Ave.



Courtesy of Urge Gastropub & Common House

Urge Gastropub & Common House

ETA: March

Suburbanites in San Marcos not looking to travel to Oceanside or Rancho Bernardo for craft beer and burgers can now opt to stay in their own neck of the woods with this third location of Urge Gastropub. Along with pub fare, guests can also find amusement in a bowling alley, bocce ball court and giant Jenga.

255 Redel Rd., San Marcos

Breakfast Republic Carmel Valley

ETA: April

This is the second Breakfast Republic scheduled to open for 2017. Aside from the local chain's usual breakfast specialties, the Carmel Valley spot will have a mezzanine.

6025 Village Way, Suite F101

Nomad Donuts

ETA: April/May

Normal Heights wasn't big enough to contain all the deliciousness of Nomad Donuts, and this spring, it will be expanding with a second location in North Park. Located on University Avenue, the 3,000-square-foot space will serve popular pastries like ube taro donuts. And for the second act, also look for housemade Montreal-style bagels, a separate sandwich station plus craft beer and wine. The space will also have indoor and outdoor seating and be open all day.

3102 University Ave.



Courtesy of Hundred Proof

Hundred Proof

ETA: Spring

Trust Restaurant in Hillcrest couldn't get any hotter, and this spring, look for the minds behind the restaurant to venture into bar food with Hundred Proof. Located only a few steps away from its sibling restaurant, the concept will highlight handcrafted cocktails, boozy shakes as well as shots of boilemakers beer. Despite focusing heavily on the bar scene, it will be open daily for lunch, dinner, drinks and weekend brunch.

4130 Park Blvd.

Mendocino Farms

ETA: Spring

This LA-based gourmet sandwich shop opened its first location in La Jolla late last year and follows up with a second regional shop in Del Mar. You can find it open this spring at the Del Mar Highlands Town Center where the 4,000-square-foot space will be outfitted with a fireplace and living wall with seats for 110 guests.

12873 El Camino Real, Del Mar

Pizza Republic

ETA: Summer

North Park's Breakfast Republic will have a new sibling restaurant, and this summer guests can find it next door. As the name suggests, the focus will be on pizza made Neapolitan-style, but they're also working on creating housemade pasta and cured meats.

2726 University Ave.

Punch Bowl Social

ETA: Late summer/early fall

The redevelopment of East Village continues and this time, a landmark building will be reopened as a new “eatertainment” concept. As at other Punchbowl locations around the U.S., patrons can wind down with vintage video games, Ping-Pong, Skee-Ball and pinball, and feast on made-from-scratch food with a Southern influence plus handcrafted cocktails.

1485 E. St.

Shake Shack

ETA: October

Those who haven't tasted Shake Shack's cheeseburgers, fries and frozen custards will have an opportunity this fall when this New York brand opens its first San Diego spot at Westfield UTC. The official opening date will be dependent on the completion of the mall's \$585 million expansion. Once open, you'll find Shake Shack on the second floor with rumors that recycled and sustainable material will be used in the construction and design. And there'll be a local spin to the concept: Frozen concretes will feature local food purveyors, according to its website.

4545 La Jolla Village Dr.