

San Diego

MAGAZINE

Best

Restaurants

260

Critic's and
readers'
picks in one
hot list



JUNE 2018

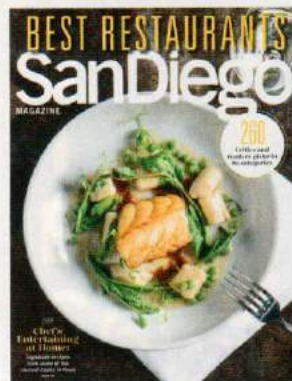
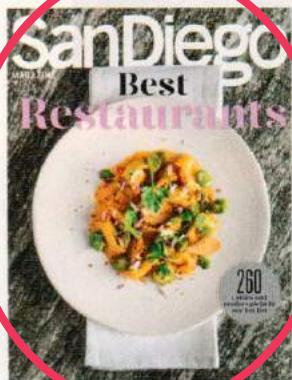


\$5.95

**Chefs
Entertaining
at Home**

RECIPES + HOW TO
HOST THE ULTIMATE
DINNER PARTY

PAGE 118



CUTTING ROOM FLOOR



DIJA MISS IT?

We couldn't deny the beauty of Dija Mara's laksa, but for our review of the Oceanside restaurant our cup runneth over with drool-worthy photos. Head to page 72 to see what made the cut.



OUT THE WINDOW

This plant display was such a breath of fresh air, but with too many vendors to showcase—and a plant special planned for July—we had to scrap it from our writeup on the Encinitas pop-up (page 87).



DEAR JOHN...

We loved your kitchen and culinary must-haves for Father's Day, but we couldn't take the prop seriously in this portrait so we had to, well, ax it. Learn more about the owner of Carlsbad's Campfire on page 90.

Cover Uncovered

There are multiple factors we consider when crafting a cover, from fonts and colors to, of course, the subject matter. This month's contenders ranged from a no-frills burger to high-end pasta and even higher-end dry-aged steak. The goal? Strike a balance between approachable and aspirational. The perfect middle ground? Herb & Wood's sea bass with English peas, mint, housemade 'nduja (a spreadable salami), and Meyer lemon. It looked so vibrant and fresh that we wanted the font colors to match. Pink seemed too shocking and blue too muted, but yellow was just right. And since this is one of our favorite issues to create, we wanted that "Best Restaurants" banner—along with the nod to the 260 winners—to sing loud and proud. See who won in the 86 categories starting on page 102.

TUNE IN! Follow @SanDiegoMag on Instagram to see more behind-the-scenes scoops and videos from photo shoots, events, and more

NINE-TEN



overall

HAPPY HOUR

CRITIC'S PICK
Donovan's Steak & Chop House

READERS' PICK
Lionfish

RUNNER-UP PICK
Madison

BAR MENU

CRITIC'S PICK
Barleymash

READERS' PICK
El Chingon

RUNNER-UP PICK
Starlite

CHEAP EATS

CRITIC'S PICK
The Friendly

READERS' PICK
The Kebab Shop

RUNNER-UP PICK
The Crack Shack

FOOD TRUCK

CRITIC'S PICK
Mariscos Mi Gusto Es

READERS' PICK
Mangia Mangia

RUNNER-UP PICK
Super Q

HOTEL RESTAURANT

CRITIC'S PICK
Nine-Ten
(AT GRANDE COLONIAL)

READERS' PICK
Lionfish
(AT PENDRY)

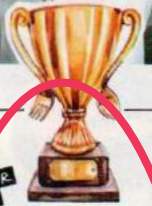
RUNNER-UP PICK
Nine-Ten

CATERER

CRITIC'S PICK
Miho

READERS' PICK
Kitchens for Good

RUNNER-UP PICK
The French Gourmet



INSIDER TIP!

Where does a chef eat?

Jason Knibb, the culinary master at Nine-Ten restaurant in La Jolla's Grande Colonial Hotel, has earned as much respect from diners as he has from fellow chefs. Here, the Bay Ho-based talent shares where he likes to eat when he's off the clock.

1. "Even after 10 years, **WHISKNLADLE** is still one of my favorites. My go-to dish is their chilaquiles with adobo chicken. It's such a great little neighborhood spot."

2. "**TRIBUTE PIZZA** is quite possibly the best pizza in San Diego, especially the Dirty Dancin' pizza, but you have to add on the bacon lardons and pork sausage. Any of the focaccias are also very tasty."

3. "I really like what chef Brad Wise is doing at **TRUST**—his ability to create amazing, flavorful dishes while still keeping things simple. I never miss the sticky bun at brunch."

NINE-TEN



PARTIES



FEEDING SAN DIEGO'S PAIRINGS WITH A PURPOSE

Hobby Riggs Tennis Club
April 14, 2018

At Feeding San Diego's third annual Pairings with a Purpose, the courts were transformed into a sea of food stations, shady lounges, games, and music. Nineteen local chefs were paired with breweries and wineries to create tastings that raised enough money for 500,000 meals for kids and families in need.

PHOTOS BY CARLO TORIBIO



1. Julian Hard Cider, Chef Barry Lane, Chef Jason Gearty, Chef Jason Knibb, 2. Dianna Arredondo, Kim Keller, Ruthie Netzey.

DONOR & LEGACY LEAGUE APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Liberty Station
April 26, 2018

The San Diego Foundation Donor & Legacy League Appreciation Luncheon honored the generosity of local philanthropists and celebrated their impact in the community. The event featured storytelling from Dede Alpert, Darcy Bingham, and Alicia Gwynn, as well as performances by the International Academy of Jazz and Bry'onna Mann of Movement BE.

PHOTOS BY ALY BÜCHOLZ NEELY



1. Jane LaFazio, Don Strom, Nancy Spector 2. Kathryn Mead, Dede Alpert, Alicia Gwynn, Darcy Bingham 3. Leon Williams, JJ Anderson 4. Jim Howell, Carmen DeBella, Cami Mattson, Guy Klum, Matt Fettig, Kathryn Mead