

## Best of San Diego 2012

113 things to taste, try & love this year

(page 1 of 7)

10

tweets



127

retweet



Like

PHOTOS BY THE HENDERSHOTTs

[Best Food](#)

[Best Travel](#)

[Best Art](#)

[Best Drinks](#)

[Best Stuff to Do](#)

[Best Beauty](#)

[Best Shopping](#)



## Best Food 2012

### Hangout for Seafoodies: Fish 101

Sit on a bench and drink Pinot from a mason jar? Why not. Or start with a pitcher of a local microbrew on tap at this unpretentious resto on a nondescript strip. Dive into a fried oyster po'boy or go healthy with a grilled fish plate.

*1468 North Coast Highway 101, Encinitas*

### Empanadas: Cueva Bar

Forget your truffle fries. We're nominating the almighty empanada as the next savory shared plate trend. Chef Oz does them traditional with beef and chimichurri sauce or saucy with curried chicken and tangy blue cheese. Two to a plate for \$10 at happy hour? Yes, please. Now if only they could get some patio seating...

*2123 Adams Avenue, University Heights*

### Pizzeria in Little Italy: Isola Pizza Bar

We love this newbie's wood-fired pies for their delicious simplicity. Case in point: the margherita, with tomato, basil, and mozzarella. Perfetto! Note the super-large photo of Sophia Loren as you enter the powder room. Che bellissima!

*1525 India Street, Little Italy*

### Hangover Cure: URBN's breakfast pizza

Cheesy, potato-y eggs and pizza are two surefire ways to cure last night's indulgences. North Park's industrial, New Haven-style pizza joint puts them together in a breakfast pizza, topped with what tastes like an inside-out breakfast burrito. What hangover?

*3085 University Avenue, North Park*

### L.A. Transplant: Katsuya

Yes, it's pricey and scene-y. But trust us, the much-hailed crispy rice with spicy tuna is all it's cracked up to be. That and Philippe Starck's sleek interior make this downtown sushi spot a must-try.

*600 F Street, Gaslamp*

### Business Lunch with a View: Bali Hai

The Shelter Island staple is our new fave lunch spot.

Its second chef in as many years (snagged him from Burlap, oh snap!) serves a great burger and hasn't messed with the Mai Tais or the coconut shrimp. Smart man.

*2230 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma*

### Food Court Makeover: Westfield UTC

Shoppers have long had to settle for shivering over a hot dog while staring at a skating rink. Now they will finally get a dining terrace, free WiFi, and eateries like Sarku Sushi Bar (this month). Also on its way to UTC: Eureka! Gourmet Burgers & Craft Beer (December). Meantime, rejoice at Tender Greens (open now).

*4545 La Jolla Village Drive, UTC area*

### New Dessert on a Stick: Bardot

Cake pops are so last year. Now we're jonesing for "luxury ice cream" in the form of Bardot Bars. We like the tropical coconut dipped in chocolate and the cookies 'n' cream flavors. Try all 19.

*1025 Prospect Street, La Jolla*

### Reuben: Lucky's Lunch Counter

Despite the NYC prices, this near-the-ballpark eatery has a cool Jewish deli vibe and hands down the best Reuben west of the Hudson River.

*338 Seventh Avenue, East Village*

### Butterscotch Cookie: Thyme in the Ranch

Part cookie, part candy, this cookie is a chewy, salty-sweet, OMG-what-is-this-thing kind of YUM. Order them by the dozen.

*16905 Avenida De Acacias, Rancho Santa Fe*