

San Diego MAGAZINE

San Diego Neighborhood Guide: Little Italy

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Where to eat in Little Italy's growing food scene

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Little Italy in San Diego

Mangia Mangia!

The food scene is growing in Little Italy. If you've already tasted your way through the new PrepKitchen, Davanti Enoteca, and UnderBelly, here's where to eat next.



Pizza from Napizza in Little Italy

Now Open

1. Napizza

Stepping into some prime real estate at the corner of India and Date, Napizza cooks its pizzas "al taglio," which means they bake slowly so their crusts are fluffy and light. The chefs are also getting funky with the organic ingredients, using shrimp, potato, smoked salmon, zucchini, and cream cheese... but not all at one time.

2. Isola

The hottest trend in pizza today is to not be trendy at all. Pizza makers are going back to the source—Naples—for inspiration and producing mouthwatering, authentic Neapolitan-style pies. That means San Marzano tomatoes, fresh mozz, and imported flour, wood-fired at 800 degrees for five minutes for a charred crust. Isola serves its traditional pizzas in a sleek, modern setting—old and new, just like this neighborhood.



Pizza from Isola in Little Italy

Coming Soon

3. SD Cellars

Urban winery SD Cellars is moving from the Miramar area to Kettner late summer or early fall. It will be trucking in grapes from all over the state, but mostly focusing on those grown right here in America's finest county. Every year, 1,000 cases of vino will be made and bottled on-site, and the big back patio will be the place to be on sunny days.

4. 1502 India

Starchitect Ted Smith owns the building and is trying to turn it into a resto, but it's anyone's guess whether the joint will be his project or something leased out. Wouldn't it be great if his son, Pinback indie rocker Zach Smith, got involved?

5. Monello

Monello means "naughty little boy" in Italian, so expect some fun and feistiness out of Bencotto's sister brother restaurant, set to open next door this fall. Proprietor Guido Nistri has imported another stellar chef from his hometown of Milan. Translation: Good stuff to come.

6. 1603 India

The folks from Buon Appetito and Sogno Di Vino are scrapping their café at the corner of India and Cedar and opening a pizza place. Yes, the pizza competition is heating up!