

SAN DIEGO HOME/GARDEN

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JANUARY 2010

OCEAN VIEW, PATIO DINING AND PRIVATE DINING FACILITIES. L-\$\$, D-\$\$\$; SUN. BRUNCH \$\$; 1298 PROSPECT ST., LA JOLLA, 858/454-9587.

DONOVAN'S STEAK & CHOP HOUSE AGED MIDWESTERN CORN-FED BEEF REIGNS BUT PORK AND SEAFOOD ALSO ARE OFFERED IN THIS ELEGANT LA JOLLA STEAKHOUSE WITH AN EXTENSIVE WINE LIST. D-\$\$\$-\$\$\$; 4340 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DR., LA JOLLA, 858/450-6666.

GEORGE'S CALIFORNIA MODERN THOUGHTFUL, ELEGANT AND PERFECTLY PAIRED FOOD IN A SOPHISTICATED SETTING. SPECTACULAR OCEANVIEW AND FULL BAR. D-\$\$\$-\$\$\$; 1250 PROSPECT ST., LA JOLLA, 858/454-4244.

GEORGE'S OCEAN TERRACE CASUAL OUTDOOR DINING OVERLOOKING THE LA JOLLA COVE AND NORTHERN COASTLINE. 1250 PROSPECT ST., 858/454-4244. L-\$\$, D-\$\$\$.

HARRY'S BAR & AMERICAN GRILL THE NEW YORK STEAK IS A FAVORITE BUT YOU'LL LOVE THE 10-OUNCE FILET MIGNON OR THE PASTA SWORDFISH, TOO. GLOBAL CUISINE. L-\$\$, D-\$\$\$; FULL BAR. 4370 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DR., LA JOLLA, 858/373-1252.

KITIMA THAI CUISINE BEEF, POULTRY, FISH AND VEGETARIAN THAI DISHES. L/D-\$\$; 8008 GIRARD AVE. 858/551-9999.

LA BASIL THAI CUISINE AFFORDABLE PRICES AND FRESH AND DELICIOUS FOOD. TRY THE HOUSE CURRY. THE ROMANTIC AND LOW-KEY SETTING IS PERFECT FOR A DATE. L-\$\$, D-\$\$\$; 5525 LA JOLLA BLVD., 858/456-7889.

LA VALENCIA HOTEL CHARMING LA JOLLA LANDMARK WITH THREE DINING ROOMS — AN INTIMATE ROOM WITH A COVE VIEW, A SUNNY TERRACE AND THE WHALING BAR AND GRILL. D-\$\$\$-\$\$\$; IN MAIN DINING ROOM ONLY. 1132 PROSPECT ST., LA JOLLA, 858/454-0771.

MARINE ROOM ENJOY CALIFORNIA CUISINE WHILE WAVES CRASH AGAINST GLASS WALLS. MENU OFFERS SEAFOOD, CHICKEN, BEEF, VEAL, AND LAMB. FULL BAR. D-\$\$\$; 2000 SPINDRIFT DR., LA JOLLA, 858/459-7222.

NINE TEN ENJOY A CHARMING BISTRO SETTING AND MAGNIFICENT FISH AND SHELLFISH. MENU CHANGES DAILY AND FEATURES SPECIAL NOTATIONS FROM CHEF JASON KNIBB. B/L-\$\$, D-\$\$\$; CLOSED FOR DINNER SUN.-MON. 910 PROSPECT ST., LA JOLLA, 858/964-5400.

PIATTI TRY RAVIOLI AL LIMONE O POMODORO: RAVIOLI FILLED WITH RICOTTA CHEESE AND BASIL SERVED WITH LEMON CREAM SAUCE OR TOMATO SAUCE. WINE LIST/FULL BAR. PATIO DINING. L/D-\$\$\$; SAT./SUN. BRUNCH-\$\$; 2182 AVENIDA DE LA PLAYA, LA JOLLA, 858/454-1589.

ROPPONGI A LITTLE JAPANESE, A DASH OF ITALIAN, POQUITO LATIN AMERICAN, A PINCH OF FRENCH, A FISTFUL OF AMERICANA — THIS SHOWPLACE IS A HOUSE OF FOOD FUSION. L-\$\$, D-\$\$\$-\$\$\$; 875 PROSPECT ST., LA JOLLA, 858/551-5252.

SANTE RISTORANTE NORTHERN ITALIAN CUISINE. DINE ON ONE OF THREE PATIOS, IN THE FORMAL DINING ROOM OR AT THE BAR WITH LIVE PIANO MUSIC. PRIVATE ROOMS FOR PARTIES. WINE LIST/FULL BAR. L-\$\$\$-\$\$\$; D-\$\$\$; 7811 HERSCHEL AVE., LA JOLLA, 858/454-1315.

TAPENADE MAKE AN EVENING OF DINNER AT THIS PLACE THAT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE BACK IN PARIS. LOOK FOR LOVELY APPETIZERS AND ENTRÉES OF DUCK AND SEA BASS. L-\$\$, D-\$\$\$; 7612 FAY AVE., LA JOLLA, 858/551-7500.

THE GRILL STUNNING INTERIORS WITH ACCENTS OF LEATHER AND COPPER, AN ADJOINING BAR AND A DEMONSTRATION KITCHEN THAT SHOWCASES FIRST-RATE CASUAL BISTRO CUISINE. L-\$\$, D-\$\$\$-\$\$\$; LODGE AT TORREY PINES, 11480 NORTH TORREY PINES ROAD, LA JOLLA, 858/777-6645.

TRATTORIA ACQUA A CHARMING COUNTRY ITALIAN SETTING. PASTAS INCLUDE A TASTY MEZZE RIGATE ALLA CONTADINA. OVER 400 WINES. OUTDOOR/INDOOR DINING. FULL BAR. L/D-\$\$; 1298 PROSPECT, LA JOLLA, 858/454-0709.

WHISKYLADE CASUAL AND COMFORTABLE WITH A MENU OF SEASONALLY COOKED LOCAL FOODS MADE IN HOUSE. L/D/SAT.-SUN. A LA-CARTE BRUNCH-\$\$\$; 1044 WALL ST., LA JOLLA, 858/551-7575.

ZENBU JAPANESE SUSHI BAR WITH FRESH FISH AND SHELLFISH BROUGHT IN DAILY. D-\$\$\$; 7660 FAY AVE., STE. 1, LA JOLLA, 858/454-4540.

review | CUCINA URBAN

Cuisine
Fashionable
Cal-Ital

Atmosphere
Boisterous and
joyous

Service
On the ball (most
of the time)

Patrons
Young and old,
straight and gay,
hotties and geeks

Parking
Valet and on-street

Noise
Mostly loud; upper
level quieter

Bottom Line
Think of it as an
Italian bistro with
a stylish urban
menu.

The former Laurel restaurant is transubstantiated: new name, decor, menu, new lower prices, affordable wines. There's enough electricity here to power all Bankers Hill. — Stephen Silverman

Cucina Urban is at 505 Laurel St., corner of Fifth and Laurel, in Bankers Hill. 619/239-2222. Open for dinner only. Appetizers are \$6-\$13, entrées \$13-\$20. www.sdurbankitchen.com



TARD SAUCE. B/L-\$\$, D-\$\$\$-\$\$\$; 4090 ADAMS AVE., KENSINGTON, 619/255-4167.

FARM HOUSE CAFÉ CHARMING, HOSPITABLE BISTRO WITH A MENU THAT APPEALS TO A VARIETY OF TASTES. TRY THE LAMB SHANK OR THE GRILLED FLAT IRON STEAK ENTRÉES. TUES.-SUN. D-\$\$\$; SUN. BRUNCH/\$\$; 2121 ADAMS AVE., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 619/269-9662.

GULF COAST GRILL A CASUAL, WOODY-LIKE-A-SKI-LODGE ENVIRONMENT WHERE THE FARE IS MOSTLY SOUTHERN AND CAJUN WITH A CALIFORNIA TWIST. L/BRUNCH-\$\$\$; D-\$\$\$-\$\$\$; HAPPY HOUR DAILY. 4130 PARK BLVD., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 619/295-2244.

KENSINGTON GRILL THE EPITOME OF CALIFORNIA CUISINE WITH A DOWN-TO-EARTH SETTING AND FRIENDLY SERVICE. D-\$\$\$-\$\$\$; SUN. BRUNCH-\$\$; 4055 ADAMS AVE., KENSINGTON, 619/281-4014.

SOLTAN BANOO HOUSE-TURNED-RESTAURANT SERVING PERSIAN FOOD, INCLUDING POMEGRANATE STEW WITH CHICKEN OR TOFU, GRILLED SKEWERS OF MAHI-MAHI, LONG-COOKED LAMB AND CHICKPEAS AND A WIDE RANGE OF VEGETARIAN DISHES. MON.-SAT. L/D-\$\$; 4645 PARK BLVD., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, 619/298-2801.

Miramar/Mira Mesa/ Scripps Ranch

LA BASTIDE BISTRO CLASSIC FRENCH CUISINE WITH A CONTEMPORARY TWIST AT BISTRO PRICES. HOUSE-MADE DESSERTS. FULL BAR WITH A WINE LIST FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, WITH WINE TASTING ON TUES. OPEN 11 A.M. - 10 P.M., EXCEPT SUN. L/D-\$\$; 10006 SCRIPPS RANCH BLVD., SCRIPPS RANCH, 858/577-0033.

SPICES THAI DISTINCTIVE CURRIES, NOODLES AND RICE AVAILABLE WITH SEVERAL CHOICES OF MEATS AND SEAFOOD OR AS VEGETARIAN DISHES. L-\$\$, D-\$\$\$; 6785 MIRA MESA BLVD.,

STE. 143, MIRA MESA, 858/552-8845; 3810 VALLEY CENTRE DR., STE. 903, CARMEL VALLEY, 858/259-0889; 16441 BERNARDO CENTRE DR., RANCHO BERNARDO, 858/674-4665.

WINESELLAR & BRASSERIE CONTEMPORARY CALIFORNIA-FRENCH CUISINE. IN ADDITION TO THE À LA CARTE MENU, PRIX-FIXE DINNERS ARE AVAILABLE. BEER/WINE, PLUS SAT. WINE TASTINGS. L (SAT.)-\$\$, D-\$\$\$; 9550 WAPLES ST., STE. 115, MIRA MESA, 858/450-9557.

Mission Valley/Old Town

BACI ITALIAN CLASSICS WITH AN EMPHASIS ON FRESH INGREDIENTS AND UNPRETENTIOUS COOKERY. THE FOOD IS PRESENTED BY SOME OF THE BEST SERVERS IN SAN DIEGO. L-\$\$, D-\$\$\$-\$\$\$; CLOSED SUN. 1955 MORENA BLVD., MORENA AREA, 619/275-2094.

BERTA'S LATIN AMERICAN RESTAURANT TUCKED AWAY ON A QUIET STREET, BERTA'S MENU FEATURES DISHES FROM CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA. HOUSE SPECIALS INCLUDE PAELLA AND COSTA RICAN CASADO. L-\$\$, D-\$\$; 3928 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN, 619/295-2343.

CASA GUADALAJARA REGIONAL MEXICAN CUISINE, SEAFOOD SPECIALTIES AND LARGE MARGARITAS. STROLLING MARIACHIS. OPENS MON.-FRI. AT 11 A.M.; WEEKENDS 8 A.M. 4105 TAYLOR ST., OLD TOWN, 619/295-5111. B/L/D-\$\$.

EL AGAVE TRADITIONAL MEXICAN CUISINE INCLUDING SIX KINDS OF MOLE (A SAUCE MADE WITH MANY DIFFERENT SPICES). ALSO AVAILABLE: SEAFOOD AND HUNDREDS OF FINE TEQUILAS. L/D-\$\$\$-\$\$\$; 2304 SAN DIEGO AVE., OLD TOWN, 619/220-0692.

OLD TOWN MEXICAN CAFE AUTHENTIC MEXICAN COOKING SERVED IN BIG PORTIONS AND HANDMADE TORTILLAS. FULL

MidCity/The Heights

BLEU BOHÈME AUTHENTIC FRENCH DISHES FROM MUSSELS SERVED SIX DIFFERENT WAYS TO FRESH FISH TO RABBIT IN MUS-