

The A-Z Guide to
Backyard BBQs
(*recipes included!*)

PAGE 130

After the Rescue:
The Kaufman
Family Speaks

PAGE 40

Inside
Diane Powers'
Colorful Casa

PAGE 80

Troy Johnson
Reviews Croce's
Park West

PAGE 60

San Diego[®]

FOOD LOVER'S ISSUE

MAGAZINE

BEST

Restaurants

165
Winners
in 55
Categories

Seafood,
burgers,
small plates
& more

PAGE 110

sandiegomagazine.com

JUNE 2014 \$4.95



Juniper & Ivy's
Garden & Grain

Making the Issue

JUNE 2014

TOUR de FOOD

Restaurant Trail

Catch us if you can! Our team criss-crossed San Diego to capture all the shots for our Best Restaurants feature. The craziest stretch? Zipping from the casual Carnitas' Snack Shack to sit-down Baja cuisine at Romesco in Bonita, then hustling north to fine dining at the Marine Room—in the same day. See this year's full list of winners on page 110.

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 SOLARE | 6 MARINE ROOM |
| 2 JUNIPER & IVY | 7 DONUT BAR |
| 3 TENDER GREENS | 8 BREAD & CIE |
| 4 CARNITAS' | 9 CUCINA ENOTECA |
| 5 ROMESCO | 10 WAYPOINT |



SEE THE STORY ON PAGE 44

WILD RIDE

The Big Picture

"I was looking for a high vantage point [to shoot Belmont Park], so I decided to go on the Giant Dipper. (I snuck my camera on.) The car went up to the top of the first drop, and inexplicably, it just stopped. I couldn't believe the photo gods! Suddenly, it sprang back to life, and I kept shooting all the way down. At the first hard right, I almost lost my camera but continued shooting. At the end, I hid my camera back in my jacket as though nothing happened.

Pretty much the least number of frames I've ever shot on a job!"

—Photographer Paul Body, on getting the shot for "Inside the Icon"

TALES FROM THE RANCH

Home on the Range with Diane Powers



Mane Story

During a tour of the restaurant queen's Technicolor-infused ranch, she gave us a peek at her prizewinning Arabian horses and made sure they were camera-ready. Check out those long tails!



Tequila!

Diane's dining room has a cabinet stocked with cocktail glasses and liquor. After we finished our last shot, her husband, Brent, whipped up a batch of margaritas—perfect for the day's sweltering temps. Read the story on page 80.



Overall

BEST OF THE BEST: FANCY

Readers' Pick
George's at the Cove

Runner-up
Mister A's

Critic's Pick
Addison

BEST OF THE BEST: GOURMET CASUAL

Readers' Pick
Searsucker

Runner-up
Cucina Urbana

Critic's Pick
Prepkitchen

BEST NEW RESTAURANT

Readers' Pick
Juniper & Ivy

Runner-up
Cucina Enoteca

Critic's Pick
Juniper & Ivy

BEST CHEF

Readers' Pick
Accursio Lota
Solare Ristorante Italiano

Runner-up
Javier Plascencia
Romesco
Mexiterranean Bistro

Critic's Pick
Jason Knibb
Nine-Ten



CUCINA ENOTECA

BEST SERVICE

Readers' Pick
George's at the Cove

Runner-up
Donovan's Steak
& Chop House

Critic's Pick
Market Restaurant
& Bar

BEST HAPPY HOUR

Readers' Pick
Monello

Runner-up
Baja Betty's

Critic's Pick
Mister A's

BEST LATE-NIGHT MENU

Readers' Pick
Brian's 24

Runner-up
The Third Corner

Critic's Pick
Starlite

BEST DESSERTS

Readers' Pick
Extraordinary Desserts

Runner-up
Bistro Sixty
(San Diego Desserts)

Critic's Pick
Jsix

BEST FOOD TRUCK

Readers' Pick
MIHO Gastrotruck

Runner-up
God Save the Cuisine

Critic's Pick
MIHO Gastrotruck

BEST CHEAP EATS

Readers' Pick
Bread & Cie

Runner-up
Tender Greens

Critic's Pick
Carnitas' Snack Shack

BEST HOTEL RESTAURANT

Readers' Pick
Grant Grill
at the US Grant

Runner-up
Atoll Restaurant
at Catamaran Resort
and Hotel

Critic's Pick
A.R. Valentien
at The Lodge at
Torrey Pines

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT

Readers' Pick
Bistro Sixty

Runner-up
Fish Public

Critic's Pick
Urban Solace



BREAKFAST PIZZA

A NOTE TO OUR READERS: Accuracy is paramount. But we are a service publication, and the lists we print should inform people and help them decide where to spend their time and money. We don't want this poll to show readers who has the biggest mailing list or marketing staff. We want it to show which restaurants the people like best. If a restaurant wins an obscene amount of awards, and it's apparent that "ballot stuffing" has occurred, San Diego Magazine reserves the right to give one or all of their awards to other top vote-getting restaurants that make a little more sense in real life.

BEST PIZZA

Readers' Pick
Pizza Port

Runner-up
Berkeley Pizza

Critic's Pick
Buona Forchetta

BEST SMALL PLATES MENU

Readers' Pick
Café Sevilla

Runner-up
Searsucker

Critic's Pick
Cucina Enoteca

BEST FISH TACO

Readers' Pick
Rubio's

Runner-up
The Brigantine

Critic's Pick
TJ Oyster Bar

BEST CHIPS AND SALSA

Readers' Pick
Miguel's Cocina

Runner-up
Puesto

Critic's Pick
Lucha Libre

BEST BURRITO

Readers' Pick
El Zarape

Runner-up
Lucha Libre

Critic's Pick
Las Cuatro Milpas



ROMESCO
MEXITERRANEAN BISTRO

*Specific
Cuisines*

BEST MIDDLE EASTERN

Readers' Pick
The Kebab Shop

Runner-up
Bandar

Critic's Pick
The Kebab Shop

BEST ITALIAN

Readers' Pick
Solare Ristorante Italiano

Runner-up
Bencotto Italian Kitchen

Critic's Pick
Bencotto Italian Kitchen

BEST FRENCH

Readers' Pick
Bleu Bohème

Runner-up
Tapenade

Critic's Pick
Bellamy's

BEST GREEK

Readers' Pick
Cafe Athena

Runner-up
Mediterranean Cafe

Critic's Pick
Cafe Athena

BEST MEXICAN

Readers' Pick
Oscar's Mexican Seafood

Runner-up
El Zarape
Critic's Pick
Romesco Mexiterranean Bistro

BEST INDIAN

Readers' Pick
Royal India

Runner-up
Bombay
Critic's Pick
Surati Farsan

BEST CHINESE

Readers' Pick
Del Mar Rendezvous

Runner-up
Mandarin House (La Jolla)

Critic's Pick
Spicy City

BEST JAPANESE

Readers' Pick
Sushi Ota

Runner-up
Shimbashi Izakaya

Critic's Pick
Wa Dining Okan

BEST THAI

Readers' Pick
Amarin Thai

Runner-up
Koon Thai Village

Critic's Pick
Amarin Thai

BEST ASIAN FUSION

Readers' Pick
Roppongi

Runner-up
Del Mar Rendezvous

Critic's Pick
Sipz

BEST VIETNAMESE

Readers' Pick
Le Bambou Restaurant

Runner-up
Pho Hoa

Critic's Pick
Saigon on Fifth

BEST KOREAN

Readers' Pick
Manna

Runner-up
Tofu House

Critic's Pick
Do Re Mi