

944

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SAN DIEGO

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+ THE
FOOD
ISSUE

ROCK THE GLOBE
DAFT PUNK COMES ALIVE ON
THEIR LATEST WORLD TOUR

CHOCOLATE IS
GOOD FOR YOU
INDULGE YOUR SKIN AND YOUR
SWEET TOOTH

WHAT'S COOKING
THE COUNTRY'S BEST
EMERGING CHEFS

GOT SKILLS IN
THE KITCHEN?
GADGETS WITH GOOD TASTE



PADMA
LAKSHMI

TOP CHEF'S BEAUTY
DISHES ON HER NEW BOOK

'Hood Hopping

Dine Like a Local in Three Emerging San Diego Communities

944life

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"It's just like *Cheers*" was the comment heard from almost every community restaurateur 944 interviewed for this article. While the following neighborhoods may be areas "where everybody knows your name," the quaint restaurants dotting them are decidedly not identical. Covering Mission Hills, University Heights and Bird Rock, 944 explores why it's worth traveling outside your own neighborhood — aka "hood hopping" — and into another all in the name of good eats.

MISSION HILLS

Primarily an upscale, family-friendly residential neighborhood, Mission Hills is an historic and foliage-filled area that is evolving with new construction projects and restaurants. It's the "most central, residential community in San Diego — with charm," says Mary Gluck, owner of Wine Vault & Bistro.

Starlite

Dishes such as fritto misto, breaded calamari and seasonal vegetables served with lemon aioli might sound fancy, but owner Matt Hoyt laughs and says, "That's just Italian peasant food." Along with fellow owners Tim Mays and Steve Poltz, Hoyt describes Starlite, a newer addition to India Street fringing the Middletown area, as an upscale hangout that is meant to be accessible, not pretentious.

Chef Travis Murphy cooks with nearly all sustainable seafood, and local growers' fare for a menu that changes daily. "In winter, there won't be a tomato on the burger," he says. Also known for its drinks, Starlite has been sought out by boutique and well-known liquor companies, such as Trumer Pils from Austria. Heads up: The restaurant doesn't take reservations in order to encourage people to stop by at any time.

3175 India Street, Mission Hills/Middletown
619.358.9766 | www.starlitesandiego.com

STARLITE LOUNGE



WINE VAULT & BISTRO



Sushi Deli One

Before there was Horton Plaza or the Gaslamp Quarter, there was Sushi Deli One — the first Japanese restaurant in Downtown San Diego. After being “kicked out,” according to president of Sushi Deli Inc., Hiroe Otake, from its first location to make room for a high-rise condo complex, Otake moved the restaurant to Mission Hills.

Serving cheap sushi in a relaxed environment, this restaurant always has a crowd mingling outside as they wait for their name to be called from the sign-in sheet. Check out the Hot Hot California Roll, or for the health conscious, try the Low Carb Combo, including shrimp tempura, teriyaki chicken, teriyaki tofu and a salad.

228 W. Washington Street, Mission Hills
619.231.9597

Wine Vault & Bistro

“We don’t have a panini machine or a microwave,” boasts Mary Gluck, who owns the Wine Vault & Bistro with her husband Chris. “We are not a wine bar.” This is a restaurant and wine shop with selections from around the world and a full bistro menu, as well as weekly *prix fixe* dinner nights.

Gluck encourages people to walk in after 6 p.m. on Thursday and Friday nights for the restaurant’s wine flights. Previous events include “Monster Merlots & Steak au Poivre” and “Singles Only Wine Tasting and Tapas.” The restaurant regularly serves everyone from multimillionaires to school teachers. Join Wine Vault & Bistro’s e-mail list to learn about its weekly offerings.

3731-A India Street, Mission Hills
619.295.3939 | www.winevaultbistro.com



WINE VAULT'S HERB CRUSTED RACK OF LAMB

STARLITE'S SWORDFISH WITH RATATOUILLE

