

## SAN DIEGO FOOD FINDS BLOG

SAN DIEGO'S BEST RESTAURANTS, MARKETS AND LOCAL CULINARY OFFERINGS PO BOX 675362 RANCHO SANTA FE CA 92067

# Hottest San Diego Lunch Spots

BY MARIA DESIDERATA MONTANA POSTED ON JANUARY 12, 2016



Forgot to pack your lunch? Need to make it back to the office before that two o'clock meeting? These eight San Diego establishments can help make that lunch rush quick and easy, so you can return to the office in no time.

### **Hillcrest**

With mouthwatering bites to eat and online ordering for pick-up or delivery, The Brew Project has your lunch hour covered! The Hillcrest eatery is dedicated to all things local, offering 24 fully-rotating local brews on tap, San Diego-inspired menu items and craft cocktails featuring locally-distilled spirits. Show your San Diego pride and order the **Padre Sandwich**. Toasted sourdough bread is filled with grilled angus steak, lettuce, tomato, red onion and sour cream horseradish sauce. Served with your choice of salad, fries or chips, this dish knocks it out of the park! Looking to split something with your coworkers? Try the **Carne Asada Fries**, cross-cut fries

loaded with melted cheese, guacamole, grilled salsa, cotija, crema and green onions. These fries are so good, you may not want to share!

Craving all-American comfort food for lunch? [Brazen BBQ](#) will satisfy that craving! The **Lone Star Texas Brisket** will take you on a journey to the good ol' south with its juicy, thinly sliced meat with a tasty bark. Brazen BBQ allows diners to dress the slow-cooked and hardwood smoked meats tableside with the eatery's housemade sauces. Whoever said you can't have candy for lunch never tried the **Smoked Pig Candy**. The thick, smoked bacon slices dusted with house "Barnyard Dust" and a mix of sugar create sweet pieces of heaven. Come visit the pitmasters at Brazen BBQ for a true Southern smokehouse dining experience at lunchtime!

San Diego has some of the best Mexican food in the nation and [Barrio Star](#) is cooking up spectacular authentic dishes! With hand-pressed and made-to-order tortillas from freshly ground corn, the tacos are a must. The **Spicy Chicken Taco**, with chipotle-rubbed chicken, grilled onions, jalapenos and chipotle aioli is a crowd favorite. If you're a vegan or vegetarian, there are plenty of options for you to enjoy too! See for yourself when you order the **Tofu Taco** or **Tamal de Maíz**. With a laidback environment and easy counter ordering, Barrio Star will ensure that you're back at the office before all those e-mails start piling up!



THE BREW PROJECT PADRES SANDWICH

## **Downtown**

Say “Ciao!” to your new favorite lunch spot. With its spacious seating and state of the art demonstration kitchen, [Pan Bon](#) will take you to Italy on your lunch break. Featuring a salad bar with over 32 toppings, you can build your own salad with anything you desire. Craving a taste of Old World Italian food for lunch? With fresh pasta made in-house, the pasta dishes are not to be missed! The **Calamarata Carbonara** features al dente pasta with a traditional egg and bacon carbonara sauce.

If you’re looking to grab a power lunch in the Gaslamp, stop by [Union Kitchen & Tap](#). Dine on a variety of craft sandwiches, salads and flatbreads. A house favorite, the **Portabella Sandwich**, is topped with roasted peppers, goat cheese, balsamic onion jam and garlic aioli. The **Poutine** with Kennebec fries, cheddar curds, bacon and southern sausage gravy is a savory conversation starter to kick off any meal with coworkers.

The newest addition to the downtown dining scene, [Biga](#), offers affordable, artisan Italian cuisine. With two Italian-made, 900-degree ovens that bake pizza in under a minute, you’ll be back at work before anyone even notices you’re gone! The **Margherita Pizza** is crafted with 200 year-old Biga mother dough, San Marzano tomatoes, housemade mozzarella, basil, olive oil and parmesan cheese. A true Italian-inspired eatery, the Gaslamp hotspot also handcrafts salads, focaccia sandwiches and wood-fired dishes. Biga has gone the extra distance and brought authentic Italian food to your work day!

## **Pacific Beach**

If you’re one of the lucky San Diegans that gets to work from picturesque Pacific Beach, make [Pacific Beach Fish Shop](#) your lunch spot! Just dust the sand off your feet and get your lunch to-go or to dine in. Chow down on the award-winning TKO Taco, a corner tortilla filled

with Mahi Mahi, Fish Shop seasoning and a tropical salsa. If you're looking for a lighter lunch, order a salad. The eatery builds their salads with your choice of fresh fish, greens, cherry tomatoes, cucumber, pickled red onions and capers.

## **Delivery**

If you don't have time to make it out of the office at lunchtime or pack a lunch in the morning, Car's Jars will come to you! The company creates homemade salads with seasonal, locally-sourced produce and handcrafted vinaigrettes delivered straight to your office or front door. Try the **CAR-nese**, with ginger soy marinated chicken, ginger sesame vinaigrette, sugar snap peas, shredded carrots, broccoli-green onion-cabbage slaw, bok choy, sliced almonds and lime. With a subscription option to receive between four and seven salads per week, getting your meals ready for the week has never been easier! Place an order by Friday at midnight and your salads will be delivered fresh on Monday.

With eateries across San Diego dedicated to mastering the 12:00 p.m. lunch rush, you will have a delicious lunch— no matter which part of the city you are in! Please let me know if you would like to learn more about any of these establishments.