



# CARLSBAD CALLING

THE SEASIDE CITY OF CARLSBAD IN SAN DIEGO'S North County is a world-class destination on the rise. Spanning a 7-mile stretch of Pacific coastline, the family-friendly town is rich in SoCal surf culture, upscale shopping and popular places such as Legoland and The Flower Fields (in the springtime). Lately, its dining and beer scenes in particular have been expanding, with new eateries and breweries opening seemingly by the week. We rounded up some of our favorite new destinations. Welcome to casual-cool (and delicious) Carlsbad.

An instant dining hotspot, literally, since opening September 2016, **Campfire** lives up to its name. The 6,000-square-foot, indoor/outdoor restaurant is a gorgeous "campground" outfitted with communal dining tables, a custom 12-foot hearth, fire pits and an actual teepee tent outside. Dishes on the market-driven seasonal menu utilize primitive, live-fire cooking methods—incorporating wood, charcoal and embers. Think smoked chicken, whole fish preparations and sides

Dining & Brew-  
ery-Hopping  
through North  
County's City  
on the Rise

By  
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The rustic-chic  
bar at Campfire.  
Opposite: halibut  
ceviche at Campfire.

such as sprouted porridge bread. Cocktails include shareable growlers and smoky infusions. For dessert, you guessed it: s'mores, but with a creative twist.

At **Green Dragon Tavern & Museum**, peruse historical documents and memorabilia from the Revolutionary War era inside its admission-free museum. Then venture inside its New England-style tavern for a local craft beer, enjoyed by its two-story stone fireplace. In the restaurant, feast on American comfort cuisine, including Maine lobster rolls, New England clam chowder and the Paul Revere burger made with house-cured bacon.

For a fine-dining experience, **West Steak & Seafood** is an elegant steakhouse known for its prime meat cuts and sea fare. We love the baked blue crab cakes, the wagyu burger and the barrel-cut filet mignon. Just across the parking lot, the more casual **Bistro West** offers farm-to-table comfort dishes such as fried pumpkin mascarpone raviolis and duck confit with gnocchi among its pastas; plus, sandwiches, pizzas and salads.



Clockwise: shrimp cocktail at West Steak & Seafood; craft beers at Arcana Brewing Co.; home-made donuts at Park 101; beer taps at Barrel Republic.





Another buzzed-about spot, **Blue Ocean Robata & Sushi Bar** is high-style design meets modern Japanese cuisine. Step into an airy "aquarium" of sorts, beneath dangling glass lights that resemble ocean bubbles, surrounded by light fixtures that look and feel like sea urchins. On the menu: yakitori-skewered meats, seafood and veggies that are charcoal-fired to perfection on a custom Japanese robata grill, along with a fun selection of sushi rolls. Wash it all down with a well-curated selection of Japanese whiskeys.

At Omni La Costa Resort & Spa, nationally acclaimed steakhouse, **Bob's Steak & Chop House**, has opened its very first SoCal location. Known for its American prime cuts of meat, seafood and stellar service, the Texas-style restaurant (think woodsy elegance) is known for its



generous portions—with standouts including the blue cheese salad, prime "Cote de Boeuf" bone-in rib-eye, veal bone-in rib chop, and the decadent peanut butter and chocolate brownie sundae for dessert.

For a healthy, casual bite, build your own custom poke bowl at the new location of **Pokewan**. The cheery, fast-casual eatery also features signature bowls such as the Superhero—salmon, quinoa, avocado, blue crab, blueberries, chia seeds and more. It's divine.

A true hidden gem, **Carlsbad Gateway Center** is home to some 80 businesses and offers eating, drinking and shopping all under one roof. Our favorite food stops include Prager Bros. Artisan Bread, Angel's Salumi & Truffles, and OH! Juice.

Opening this summer, **Park 101** is a community hangout of sorts. Find to-go offerings like tri-tip sandwiches, homemade donuts, ice cream sandwiches, juices and coffee at the market. Sip a glass of wine or sample from more than 30 local beers at the Garden Pub; dine on smoky meat dishes at Park 101 Barbecue; and lounge around fire pits on the rooftop Tamarack View Deck.

Furthering San Diego's reputation as the nation's craft beer capital, Carlsbad is burgeoning with breweries, beer bars and beer-centric experiences. **Barrel Republic** is a fun new stop, with a rotating selection of self-service taps featuring craft beers and ciders amid a low-key ambiance. And while not new, **Pizza Port** is a must-visit institution for beer lovers. The bustling beach bar features a variety of beer; as well as hand-tossed pizzas, arcade games and picnic tables.

Other beer tour favorites include **Rouleur Brewing Company**, specializing in hybrid beer styles; boutique brewery **Arcana Brewing Company**, with a delicious honey pale ale regularly on tap; **Belching Beaver Brewery**, an industrial-style tap room with a tasty milk stout; **Toolbox Brewing Company**, a small-batch craft brewery known for its sours; and **Culver Beer Co.**, known for its fun trivia nights and a constantly changing list of draft beers that are good to the last drop. 🍷

## Details

- Arcana Brewing Company**  
5621 Palmer Way,  
909.529.2337
- Barrel Republic**  
2961 State St.,  
760.841.8404
- Belching Beaver Brewery**  
980 Park Center Drive,  
Vista, 760.599.5832
- Bistro West**  
4960 Avenida Encinas,  
760.930.8008
- Blue Ocean Robata & Sushi Bar**  
2958 Madison St., #100,  
760.434.4959
- Bob's Steak & Chop House**  
2100 Costa Del Mar Road,  
760.929.6346
- Campfire**  
2725 State St., 760.637.5121
- Carlsbad Gateway Center**  
5650 El Camino Real,  
#200, 760.804.2786
- Culver Beer Co.**  
2719 Loker Ave.,  
760.814.2355
- Green Dragon Tavern & Museum**  
6115 Paseo Del Norte,  
760.918.2421
- Park 101**  
3040 Carlsbad Blvd.,  
park101carlsbad.com
- Pizza Port**  
571 Carlsbad Village Drive,  
760.720.7007
- Pokewan**  
2958 Madison St., #101,  
760.720.2300
- Rouleur Brewing Company**  
5840 El Camino Real,  
Suite 101, 442.244.5111
- Toolbox Brewing Company**  
1495 Poinsettia Ave., #148,  
Vista, 888.686.6526
- West Steak & Seafood**  
4980 Avenida Encinas,  
760.930.9100