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# The New San Diego

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## The newest places in San Diego

→ July marks the 250th anniversary of San Diego. This ocean-side city was once hailed as “the birthplace of California” after it became the first European settlement on the West Coast in 1769. But San Diego has come a long way, not just in the last 250 years, but also in the last five years. Rediscover neighborhoods throughout San Diego brimming with new hot spots and cultural offerings. While some of the historic gems of the city are still revered, that’s not what this article is about. Instead we focus on the newest aspects of San Diego, including trendy taco joints and hidden bars, most of which have popped up in the last year or two.



## REDISCOVER SAN DIEGO

### Little Italy

Little Italy is an up-and-coming neighborhood in San Diego, not far from its downtown—coined the “Gaslamp Quarter.” Guaranteed, you’ll want to eat and drink your way through this part of town; lucky for you, there are ample places to chill out between meals.

Start your trek under the Little Italy sign and walk the few blocks to get your bearings. Start with a glass of vino at **SOGNO DI VINO**, which features a long list of Italian varietals that can be paired with small plates if you’re already jonesing for a bite. *1607 India St.*

One way to see the neighborhood is to take a tour through **LITTLE ITALY TOURS** (*LittleItalyTours.com*). Options include

a kid-friendly pizza tour, where guests sample favorites from pizza spots throughout the area; a cooking and market tour that begins at the mercato (*an open-air farmer’s market on Saturdays*); or a classic food tour where guests sample the best eats from across Little Italy, all of which taste like they were made by your nonna (*whether you have one or not*).

For dinner, ditch the Italian and do this weird thing—eat sushi in Little Italy at **CLOAK & PETAL**. It may sound strange but



## WHERE TO EAT TACOS

Tacos in Little Italy? Why not?

Tucked inside the Little Italy Food Hall is **NOT, NOT TACOS**, operating under the tagline, “well, they’re not NOT tacos.” Sam the Cooking Guy is the local celebrity behind this offbeat gem featuring combinations of tacos that are, quite honestly, barely tacos at all.

The menu is constantly welcoming new flavors so there is always something different to try. On our trip, favorites included mashed potato, meat-loaf, and salmon varieties. *550 W. Date St.*

bear with us. This sushi restaurant is a barely-lit gem that plays nothing but old school rap music. Gomfy booths and long tables sit around a centralized bar flanked by two Japanese cherry blossom trees. The walls don giant pieces of art, including two paintings hung side-by-side, one of Biggie Smalls and one of Tupac.

Dine on traditional sushi rolls of your choosing, but whatever you do, don’t skip the garlic edamame. Cocktails are more reminiscent of the varieties found in hip, downtown bars than your classic sushi restaurant, including the Nick & Nori (*a twist on the original martini made with Japanese nori-infused gin*) and the Devil’s Advocate (*a combination of rum, cashew milk, lime, and psychaud’s bitters*). *1953 India St.*

### Old Town

Old Town San Diego is where it all began. This neighborhood was once best known as the home of Mission San Diego, drawing in visitors from all

