

PLUS: EVENT STYLE AWARD WINNERS & FINALISTS

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*Event-Ready
Venues and Ideas
in 19 Cities*



*Expanded Section on
Canadian Venues*

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FLAVOR PROFILE

San Diego is exploding with new event-friendly bars and restaurants. Here's where to take a group for...

STEAK:

Opened in July in the Gaslamp Quarter, **STK San Diego** specializes in steak and New American cuisine. The 8,300-square-foot concept from the One Group is located at the Andaz Hotel and includes a mezzanine lounge and courtyard. The space seats 236 or holds 345 for receptions. (600 F St., toggrp.com)

SEAFOOD:

Coronado's **Maretalia Ristorante** completed a renovation in September. Highlights of the seafood restaurant's menu include an extensive raw bar, a chef's kitchen, an updated dining room, and a revamped food and beverage program. The second-floor restaurant encom-

passes 6,500 square feet and accommodates 200 seated guests or 275 standing. Private dining or full buyouts are available. (1300 Orange Ave., Coronado, bluebridgehospitality.com)

VEGAN FOOD:

Popular chain **Breakfast Republic** expanded to Carmel Valley in November 2017. The restaurant spans 4,050 square feet and can accommodate 128 guests. The concept from Johan Engman of Rise & Shine Restaurant Group has an extensive breakfast menu that includes vegan and gluten-free options, as well as a drink menu that includes cocktails, draft beer, two varieties of kombucha on tap, and antioxidant shots. (6025

Village Way, breakfast republic.com)

ITALIAN FOOD:

Modern Italian cuisine is the specialty at **Maestoso** in Hillcrest. Opened in March 2018, the restaurant's signature look is an open kitchen with a wraparound chef's counter showcasing chefs making pasta, desserts, and more. The space measures 2,000 square feet and includes a garden patio and outdoor space. It seats 84 guests. (1040 University Ave., maestoso.com)

BEER:

Downtown San Diego introduced the **Bell Marker** in February 2018. The 8,000-square-foot brewery with a wraparound bar accommodates 212 seated

guests. Along with 12 beers brewed on site, the menu includes a selection of pizzas, sandwiches, and vegan options. (603 Broadway, thebellmarker.com)

JAPANESE FOOD:

Little Italy is home to **Cloak and Petal**, an upscale Japanese eatery that opened in December 2017. Dramatic cherry blossoms behind the wraparound bar anchor the 7,500-square-foot restaurant with room for 117 seated or 333 standing guests. (1953 India St., cloakandpetal.com)

MEXICAN FOOD:

El Jardin opened in July. The Liberty Station restaurant helmed by *Top Chef Mexico* chef Claudette Wilkins features regional Mexican cuisine. The 50-seat interior space holds 70 for receptions, and an adjoining 5,000-square-foot patio seats 100 or holds as many as 250 people for receptions. (2885 Perry Road, eljardinrestaurantbar.com)

IN THE WORKS

The **Guild** is a 162-room Marriott Tribute Portfolio hotel slated to open in February. Housed in a 1920s-era Y.M.C.A. building downtown, the

venue will have a grand ballroom, an event space in the former underground pool area, and a signature restaurant and penthouse suite.

Scheduled to break ground in 2019 is the

535-acre, \$1.13 billion **Bayfront development**, which will include a 1,600-room hotel from Gaylord Hotels with a 415,000-square-foot convention center.

Brent Bolthouse's

trendy bar and lounge **the Bungalow** is slated to open a La Jolla location in spring 2020. The 10,000-square-foot space will have more than 5,000 square feet of outdoor space.



GIFTS

Famous for its always-expanding selection of fresh-baked cookies, the **Cravory** (thecravory.com) launched a new product, Take and Make cookie mixes, in November. The mixes, which are available in ultimate chocolate chip and birthday cake, are packed in jars with raw ingredients and instructions to recreate the cookies at home. Packaging can be customized with corporate logos and messaging for event decor, party favors, or welcome gifts. —A.G.

WHERE TO HOST A NIGHT OUT

Downtown San Diego's **Punch Bowl Social** opened in June. The two-level venue is 23,000 square feet and holds 1,100 standing guests—800 on the first floor, 200 on the mezzanine, and 100 in a reception area called the Holiday Lounge. Entertainment includes bowling, arcade games, ping-pong, bocce, darts, foosball, and karaoke. Catering options include punch bowls and passed appetizers like fried chicken sliders and taco truck-style buffets. (1485 East St., punchbowlsocial.com)



PHOTOS: PHIL COLLUM PHOTOGRAPHY (BREAKFAST REPUBLIC), EDGAR PEREDA GOMEZ MEXICO (CLOAK AND PETAL), COURTESY OF CRAVORY, COURTESY OF VENUES (ALL OTHERS)