

SAN DIEGO FOOD FINDS BLOG

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

Lunch That Won't Break The Bank

BY [MARIA DESIDERATA MONTANA](#) POSTED ON [MARCH 14, 2016](#)



GRATEFUL VEG PIZZA AT WOODSTOCK'S

With running around for work, school and the like, we could all use a satisfying lunch that won't break the bank. Restaurants across San Diego are ringing the lunch bell with flavors you'll love to find—from overstuffed sammies to tacos loaded with vibrant toppings. These lunch pros are serving up ten of the best lunches in San Diego, all for \$10 or less!

Brian's 24

If you keep funny hours and your tummy starts rumbling for breakfast at 1:00 p.m., Brian's 24 is the perfect place to take a break. It's a San Diego staple for 24/7 dining, and breakfast is served during all of those hours! Grab a seat at the bar or at one of the tables looking out on lively Sixth Avenue. Their malted **Belgian Waffle**, thick-sliced **French Toast** and gigantic, fluffy **Buttermilk Hotcakes** are available for under \$10. The breakfast-for-lunch options are sure to satisfy taste buds and wallets.

Woodstock's Pizza

At lunch time, Woodstock's Pizza is a rock concert for your mouth, and it's like you got great tickets right outside of the gate. If you haven't tried their folded-over crust technique to stuff every bite with ingredients and sauce, then you should now! Take a slice out of the personal-sized **Grateful Veg**. The pizza is crafted with freshly sliced bell peppers, white onions, fresh tomatoes, black olives and mushrooms. With six California locations, including one in Pacific Beach and the College Area, there's no excuse to deprive your mouth of its lunch time rock show.

Tavern

Pacific Beach's Tavern is well-known for its lively nights, 30 taps and more than 40 HD TVs for catching a game. It has also become the spot for high-quality bar fare, featuring in-house baked pretzels, breads and buns. For a \$10 lunch, grab their **Tavern, BBQ Pork** or **Patty Melt Sliders**. The BBQ Pork Sliders come loaded with honey beer-braised carnitas, Wild Turkey BBQ sauce, green papaya & jicama slaw and tobacco onions. The mouthwatering treats are served on sweet Hawaiian rolls with fries, or housemade green papaya and jicama slaw.

Barrio Star

Shining bright, even in the midday sun, is Barrio Star. The Bankers Hill eatery boasts vibrant colors, modern décor and quality Mexican Soul Food. At lunchtime, swing by for the **Taco Plate** with your choice of two tacos and beans for \$10. With chicken, spicy chicken, carnitas, soy chorizo, potato and tofu tacos, Barrio Star has gone the extra distance to provide gluten free, vegan and vegetarian options.

Biga

Biga is crafting a lunch that belongs in Italy, but fortunately exists in the heart of downtown San Diego. Select baked-to-order focaccia sandwiches, salads and Napoletana pizzas are artfully crafted for under \$10 at lunch. With an Italian wood-fired oven cooking pizza, housemade focaccia bread and Biga rolls, you'll feel transported by the aromas—as well as the incredibly fresh ingredients. Order the **Crispy Chicken Skin Sandwich**, with scamorza, heirloom tomato, basil, pickled onion, Suzie's Farm arugula and lemon aioli. Otherwise opt for one of their pies as a *pizza fritta*, a crispy fried pizza!

The Taco Stand

Whenever a taco craving kicks in, The Taco Stand has you covered with locations downtown and in La Jolla. Swing by for friendly prices on Mexican lunch fare including tacos, burritos, quesadillas and loaded fries. The taquería is making its presence known with south-of-the-border tastes, north of the border. For a full taste of SoCal flavors, try out the **California Burrito**, loaded with flame-grilled angus steak, cheese, fries, guacamole, tomato, salsa and sour cream. Otherwise, their specialty tacos will really give you something to *taco* about with their craft toppings and unique preparations.

Carnivore Sandwich

Inspired by East Coast delicatessens, Carnivore Sandwich serves overstuffed sandwiches fit for San Diego carnivores. The praiseworthy New York-style sandwiches feature superior proteins from across the country. With current locations in the East Village and Little Italy, as well as an express location arriving in the coming weeks, the restaurant has the lunch rush covered. Dig into half of the hefty **Pastrami Sandwich**, rye bread piled high with pastrami, Swiss and deli mustard for under \$9.

The New Yorker

The New Yorker is bringing a slice of New York to San Diego...literally! For just \$3.00-3.50, the Gaslamp spot dishes out slices of its authentic pizza. On Monday and Tuesday, slices are featured for just \$1.50! Whether you're partying or working downtown midday, this deal is hard to beat. Enjoy the decadent **BCR**, loaded with bacon, chicken breast, caramelized onion and ranch.

True North Tavern

A North Park mainstay, True North Tavern remains true to its vibrant neighborhood—serving playful food with a kick of creativity. True North is pointing your next \$10 lunch in the right direction with the **Chicken Cheddar Biscuit** and **Smashbrown Biscuit**. The Chicken Cheddar Biscuit is loaded with fried chicken, cheddar and garlic mayo. The Smashbrown Biscuit is stacked high with a smashed brown tater tot patty, fried egg, cheddar, bacon, bacon mayo and chipotle ketchup. There's a reason the eatery has named these "Bomb Ass Biscuits."

Fish Shop

With locations in Pacific Beach, Encinitas and Hermosa Beach, Fish Shop has fish dishes for days. After stepping through the door, choose from a selection of fish, marinades and prep styles. The award-winning **TKO Taco** will win you over from your first bite into the grilled Mahi Mahi topped with Fish Shop Seasoning and a tropical salsa. Grab two of the tacos for \$10 to get over the afternoon blues. Did we mention it was voted Best Fish Taco in San Diego at the 2011 Fish Taco TKO Competition?