

The San Diego Union-Tribune

The Dish: 34 places you can eat, drink and hang out this Independence Day



The flavors of JRDN's Picking Berries will remind you of a flag decorated sheet cake in a cocktail glass.

(Photo courtesy of JRDN / Tower 23)

From in-house grilled burgers and hot dogs to firecracker shrimp and ice cream sundae bar, restaurants throughout San Diego County are ready to help you celebrate America's 234th birthday

What's happening

Chef Richard Blais and the San Diego Symphony have teamed up to offer Bayside Summer Nights concertgoers something new this year: their choice of a curated three-course meal or the Blais Box picnic meal boasting a Southern California classic bistro and brasserie fare. In addition, the symphony is collaborating with top local purveyors for its new dining section, *Finest City Eats*. The new dining section located behind the grandstand includes Biga San Diego, Lola 55, Cravory Cookies, Bread and Cie and Achilles Coffee Roasters. The menus range from pastries and popcorn to Mexican and Italian cuisines. Concertgoers seated in the newly named Blais By The Bay section, (formerly the Champagne section), can pre-order a full, three-course, served meal or a la carte options featuring Blais' favorite bites like his double pimento cheeseburger or cauliflower steak with Indian spiced potato. The Blais Box features dishes ranging from chicken fried duck confit to buttermilk panna cotta with berries. All orders for Blais' meal options must be placed online by 4 p.m. the day before the event. *The concert series runs June 28-Sept. 1. Embarcadero Marine Park South, 200 Marina Park Way, downtown.* sandiegosymphony.org/dinner/

Pre-Fourth of July festivities

Barrel Republic and Sierra Nevada Brewing Company will celebrate the freedom to pour at an exclusive tasting of rare archived brews. Beer lovers will

sample classics from Sierra Nevada and also have the opportunity to “talk beer” with an expert. Guests who dress up in patriotic attire or Sierra Nevada gear, will get 10 percent off their bill. *4 p.m. July 3. 2961 State St., Carlsbad. (760) 841-8404.* barrelrepublic.com/locations/carlsbad/

Fourth of July happenings

Carnitas Snack Shack will host a Fourth of July cookout with burgers and hot dogs starting at 11 a.m. The day’s festivities include live music with DJ Mike White from 2 to 6 p.m., followed by a live band from 6 to 8:45 p.m. Stay for the Big Bay Boom fireworks show starting at 9 p.m. *July 4. 1004 N. Harbor Drive, San Diego. Free admission.* carnitassnackshack.com

Morton’s The Steakhouse celebrates Independence Day with a Power Hour in the bar from 4 to 9 p.m. *Thursday, July 4.* The Harbor Club, 285 J St., San Diego. mortons.com/sandiego/

Fort Oak offers a collection of car themed cocktails, including the Skylark, an elevated Gin and Tonic with coconut milk, lemon, Earl Grey orgeat, meringue and soda. Pair it with a scrumptious seafood plate or wood-fired fare. *Thursday, July 4. 1011 Fort Stockton Drive, San Diego. (619) 722-3398.* fortoaksd.com/

The Bier Garden of Encinitas will serve an all-American cocktail, the Blackberry Mash (\$12). The vibrant red drink is made with Bulleit Bourbon, crème de cassis, muddled blackberry, honey and lemon juice. *Thursday, July 4. 641 S. Coast Highway 101, Encinitas.* biergartenencinitas.com/

The Corner Drafthouse has crafted a bright red cocktail bursting with heat and flavor: the Watermelon Jalapeno Margarita. Priced at \$11, the flavorful drink is made with Volcan Blanco Tequila, jalapeno, freshly squeezed watermelon, lime juice, agave and a Tajin rim. *Thursday, July 4. 495 Laurel St., San Diego.* thecornerdrafthouse.com/

Union Kitchen & Tap Gaslamp will serve brunch and bottomless mimosas starting at 9 a.m., followed by food and drink specials from 2 p.m. to close on Independence Day. Gorge on their Disheveled Joseph (Sloppy Joe) piled high with ground beef stewed in a spiced tomato sauce, caramelized onion and roasted wild mushrooms on a warm brioche bun, or sink your teeth into a Double Chili Cheese Burger, made with two quarter-pound patties, house chili, white cheddar cheese on a brioche bun, both served with your choice of one side. Side specials include chili cheese fries and whole grain mustard and bacon potato salad. Want something sweet and boozy to pair your meal with? Order the Betsy Ross (\$8) cocktail special, a mix of Peach Vodka, orgeat and lemon. *Thursday, July 4. 333 Fifth Ave, San Diego. (619) 795-9463.* gaslampunion.com/

Trust Restaurant will raise a glass to the red, white and blue with a sparkling red hot drink, Take Two (\$15), made with Cutwater Vodka, Amaro, blackberry, mint and salt. *Thursday, July 4. 3752 Park Blvd., San Diego. (619) 795-6901.* trustrestaurantsd.com/

JRDN Restaurant welcomes imbibers to pull up a chair on its beachfront patio and enjoy a Picking Berries (\$13), a refreshing mixture of Fugu Vodka, berries and lemon. *Thursday, July 4. 723 Felspar St., San Diego. (858) 270-2323.* t23hotel.com/jrdn/

Hundred Proof offers a colorful patriotic drink — The Goma (\$12) — featuring flavors reminiscent of the warmth of a bonfire on the Fourth of July. The cocktail is made with Kikori Rice Whiskey, Clement coconut, lemon, black sesame and Japanese chili, garnished with red, white and blue unconsecrated communion wafers. *Thursday, July 4. 4130 Park Blvd., San Diego. (619) 501-6404. hundredproofsd.com/*

7 Mile Kitchen celebrates Independence Day with The Acai, made with acai juice, light agave nectar, lemon juice, club soda, topped with a spoonful of blackberry-acai juice muddle, and garnished with a lemon wheel and mint sprig. Spike it with Venom Vodka or keep it spirit-free. *Thursday, July 4. 5420 Grand Pacific Drive, Carlsbad. (760) 827-2514. 7milekitchen.com/*

20|Twenty Grill executive chef Julian Quinones will prepare a classic American barbecue without the mess with selections like grilled marinated tri-tip, smoked chicken and strawberry-rhubarb cobbler with vanilla bean ice cream. Try one of the “Locals Only” cocktails, including the Strawberry Ginger Shrub (\$18), made with Malahat Ginger Rum, house-made strawberry ginger shrub and club soda. A kid-friendly menu will be available. *6 to 10 p.m. Thursday, July 4. \$65 per adult; \$30 per child 12 and under. 5480 Grand Pacific Drive, Carlsbad. (760) 827-2500. 20twentygrill.com/*

The Westgate Hotel will serve a drink symbolizing the stars and stripes on the American flag. The Pisco Sour (\$7), is a crisp, white concoction of Mistral Anejado, orange blossom water and egg white. Take your spirited cocktail and head up to the rooftop for some jazz by the Ian Buss Trio. *Thursday, July 4. 1055 Second Ave., San Diego. (619) 238-1818. westgatehotel.com/*

Monello will serve a star-spangled drink made with tequila, agave, triple sec, lime juice, grenadine and vermouth with a blue-sugar rim. *Thursday, July 4. 750 W. Fir St., San Diego. (619) 501-0030. lovemonello.com/*

Lazy Hippo kicks off Independence Day with a breakfast freebie: customers who purchase any breakfast item of choice will receive a complimentary cinnamon roll pancake, topped with a sweet cream-cheese glaze and a touch of cinnamon. *Thursday, July 4. 416 Third Ave., San Diego. (619) 550-1071. lazyhippobreakfast.com/*

The Whiskey House in the Gaslamp Quarter celebrates our nation's birth with \$4 drafts of Kronenbourg (European pale lager) and \$1 shots of house whiskey. *4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, July 4. 420 Third Ave., San Diego. (619) 546-6289. thewhiskeyhousesd.com/*

WhipHand in East Village will offer 25 percent off its self-serve beer bank, featuring its Juneshine's Blood Orange Mint (hard kombucha) and Modern Times' City of the Sun IPA. Wings and burgers, including the smoked cheddar burger (dry-aged beef, smoked cheddar, candied bacon, Cajun onions, lettuce, tomato and pickle chips), will be half off. *Open at 11 a.m. Thursday, July 4. 935 J St., San Diego. (619) 450-5515. whiphandsd.com/*

InterContinental San Diego, San Diego's newest waterfront hotel, has a variety of options for both guests and locals to experience SoCal's biggest fireworks display over San Diego Bay. Each option has a clear view of the fireworks show which starts at 9 p.m. and last about 17 minutes. *Thursday, July 4. 901 Bayfront Court, San Diego. Reservations: (619) 501-9400. intercontinentalsandiego.com/*

- **Lane Field 4th of July Fireworks & BBQ:** 5 to 10 p.m. \$10 per adult; \$5 per child, admission only (food and beverage, including beer and wine are extra). Bring blankets and/or chairs. In the grass area in front of the hotel. Big Bay Boom fireworks launch at 9 p.m. and last about 17 minutes.

- **Vistal Restaurant:** Food and beverage minimums for outdoor (\$100 per person) and window tables (\$80).

- **Red, White & Waterfront Celebration:** Barbecue buffet, full-hosted bar, plush seating, heaters, blankets, party favors and valet parking. 6:30 to 10 p.m. \$125 per adult; \$50 per child. Bayview Terrace.

Pechanga Resort & Casino will offer Independence Day feasting at any of its 13 restaurants. Afterward, relax on the rooftop of the casino's tower to watch the patriotic fireworks display starting at 8:45 p.m. July 4. The Pechanga Buffet will offer an Independence Day menu featuring fresh seafood selections, an all-American station, four meats from the grill, including New York steak and smokehouse pork spare ribs, authentic flavors from the Far East, and an extensive dessert station with a make-your-own sundae bar. *9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday, July 5 and Saturday, July 6. \$36.99 per adult; \$22.99 per child 3-11; children 3 and under are free. 45000 Pechanga Pkwy, Temecula. (877) 711-2946. pechanga.com/*

Mister A's rooftop patio salutes to Independence Day with two specialty prix fixe menu options and a new cocktail — the Sunny And 75 — made with Chiptole Vodka, Ron Zacapa Rum and roasted pineapple. *Thursday, July 4. Reservations: (619) 239-1377. asrestaurant.com/reservations/*

Bottaia Winery is throwing a Fourth of July Pool Party with bottomless mimosas, bottomless Bottaia White Sangria, grilled burgers and hot dogs, chicken drummettes, house-made hors d'oeuvres and live music. *12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, July 4. \$50 per person; children under 4 are free. 35601 Rancho California Road, Temecula. Tickets: bit.ly/2L5JmOL*

Viewpoint Brewing Company is hosting its second annual Fourth of July BBQ Bash featuring an evening of family-friendly games, a pig roast, American barbecue with sides, macaroni and cheese station, salad bar, dessert station, house-brewed beer, and live music. There's also an American history trivia hour, brewery tours and a view of the local fireworks. Communal table seating is first-come, first-served. *5 to 10:30 p.m. July 4. 2201 San Dieguito Drive, Del Mar. \$25-\$85. Tickets: bit.ly/2Y32y3j*

Catania invites family and friends to celebrate America's birthday enjoying a beachfront view on the patio while sharing a Sicilian pistachio wood-fired pizza and a chilled glass of rose. *Thursday, July 4. 7863 Girard Ave., No. 301, La Jolla. Patio table reservations: (858) 551-5105. opentable.com*

The Oceanaire Seafood Room will offer a three-course dinner for two along side a complimentary bottle of Butter Chardonnay or Drumheller Cabernet Sauvignon for \$70. Dishes include spicy firecracker shrimp and jumbo shrimp scampi and all-American desserts like red raspberry sorbet, blueberry bread pudding and white chocolate cheesecake. Be sure to stop in the bar for \$1 oysters available all day. *Thursday, July 4. 400 J St, San Diego. Reservations: theoceanaire.com/Home.aspx*

Union Kitchen & Tap Encinitas is the place for an Independence Day weekend with brunch and bottomless mimosas from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., followed by \$5 beers from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday, July 4; live music from 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Friday, July 5; and a DJ spinning from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, July 6. *1108 S. Coast Hwy 101, Encinitas. (760) 230-2337. localunion101.com/*

Waterbar in Pacific Beach is hosting its Red, White & Tentacles Summertime Beach Party with food and drink specials designed for Independence Day. Offerings include \$7 Red, White, Blue Boozy Popsicles, as well as \$12 Tito's Frozen Electric Lemonade and Frozen Jack Cherry Coke. Curb your brunch cravings with loaded breakfast tots or a breakfast burrito, or opt for lunch specials like The East Coaster, with Maine lobster claw meat, drawn butter, celery and garlic salt on a brioche roll, or fried corn dogs. If dinner is your preference, keep it all-American with Americana sliders or grilled salmon plate served with baked beans, macaroni salad and sweet corn. *Thursday, July 4. 4325 Ocean Blvd, San Diego. (858) 888-4343. waterbarsd.com/*

Slide into summertime at **Pacific Beach AleHouse** with barbecue specials paired with Adult Slushies and \$5 house-brewed all-American lager. The AleHouse BBQ Special includes your choice of a half-rack of ribs, pulled pork or smoked tri-tip for \$15.95, or a combo of all three for \$21.95. Both options are served with jalapeño cornbread, baked beans and macaroni salad. *Thursday, July 4. 721 Grand Ave, San Diego. (858) 581-2337. pbalehouse.com/*

Backyard Kitchen & Tap in Pacific Beach is gearing up for Independence Day with a food special complete with barbecue ribs, macaroni and cheese, cornbread

muffin, roasted corn and coleslaw. *Thursday, July 4. 832 Garnet Ave, San Diego. (858) 859-2593. \$14.95 per person. backyardpb.com/*

Coronado Island Marriott Resort & Spa will offer guests an intimate Fourth of July dining experience on the resort's private pier with unhindered views of the Big Bay Boom fireworks show. *Thursday, July 4. 7 to 10 p.m. dinner, buffet available until 9 p.m. \$90, plus service charge and tax per adult; tickets for children 10 and under are sold out. 2000 Second St., Coronado. Tickets: bit.ly/2x3Izpl*

Dive into some dry-rubbed, barbecue-glazed baby back ribs while sipping a cocktail from **The Pioneer's** patriotic cocktail list made just for the occasion. Declare your love of country with The Patriot, infused with rum, blue curacao, pineapple juice and strawberry puree float. *Thursday, July 4. 8622 Lake Murray Blvd, San Diego. (619) 825-7787. thepioneerbbq.com/*

Pay tribute to the red, white and blue at **Bub's @ the Beach** with a July "Bomb Pop" Mule of the Month, crafted with a red, white and blue layering of Blueberry Vodka, blueberry puree, fresh lime juice, ginger beer and grenadine. *Thursday, July 4. 1030 Garnet Ave, San Diego. (858) 270-7269. bubspb.com/*

Sammy's Woodfired Pizza will offer its limited-time only seasonal summer salads, including the Watermelon, Cucumber & Feta Salad, topped with toasted almonds and drizzled in lemon-mint vinaigrette; and the Sweet & Sassy BBQ Salad, prepared with grilled chicken tossed in barbecue sauce, Roma tomatoes, Gorgonzola, fresh corn, red onion, cilantro, ranch and crispy tortilla strips. Pair it all with a Summer Sips Flight, 3-ounce tasters featuring Sancerre Blanc, Pascal Jolivet Pinot Grigio, Ruffino IL Ducale Rosé and Jean-Luc Colombo, all served in 3-

ounce tasters. *Thursday, July 4. Locations: Del Mar, La Jolla, La Mesa, Mission Valley, San Marcos, Scripps Ranch.* sammypizza.com