

CULINARY *Story Starters*

Dining in Newport Beach is a culinary journey — a choose-your-own adventure where artisanal concepts are elevated by masterful technique, locally sourced ingredients and freshly caught seafood befitting a coastal destination. Whether visitors follow the seasons for a chef-driven sensory escape or drift away with the ocean breezes while wining and dining harborside, the destination's California-fresh and global influences mean there is always something new to sip and savor by the sea. Help travelers navigate their way through an ever-evolving dining scene with this guide that identifies the tastiest themes, neighborhoods and luxurious experiences to discover among the destination's 400+ dining establishments.



DOCK & DINE

To dock and dine is to experience the best of Newport Beach: sun-soaked skies, the shimmering sea and elevated culinary concepts featuring ripe seasonal ingredients brimming and bursting with flavor. Boaters can set sail on a culinary adventure through the harbor to enjoy their meals on the water from restaurants including **The Winery Restaurant & Wine Bar, A+O Restaurant & Bar, The Cannery, Sol Mexican Cocina, Tavern House and Woody's Wharf**. More than 15 waterfront restaurants offer boatside menus or docks where visitors can leave their vessel and dine inside.

MICHELIN-RECOMMENDED

Making the Michelin Guide is no easy feat — most restaurants never grace the pages, let alone see a star. Stars aside, to even be highlighted in the elite dining book requires use of the highest quality ingredients, mastery of flavor and technique, value, consistency and personality. Five restaurants are putting Newport Beach on the global culinary map, with listings in the prestigious red book: **Fable & Spirit** (Bib Gourmand), **Lido Bottle Works, Sushi li, Marché Moderne and Bello by Sandro Nardone**.

WATERFRONT DINING WITH SEA-TO-SHORE CUISINE

The ocean views in Newport Beach are as varied as the coastal cuisine being served — from mega yachts and multi-million dollar mansions to Duffy boats and the bayside boardwalk home to the charming Balboa Fun Zone. Drop anchor at one of the destination's many waterfront restaurants to enjoy world-class scenery while savoring fresh-caught seafood. **Bluewater Grill and The Cannery** are Cannery Village gems, while nearby Lido Marina Village favorites include the laidback **Circle Hook** and highly acclaimed **Nobu**, where omakase sushi is served up with harbor views. More luxurious dining awaits along the stretch of Mariner's Mile down Coast Highway, including **Louie's by the Bay, Billy's by the Beach, Rusty Pelican, A+O, Tavern House**, and more.

UNIQUE POINTS OF VIEW

In a destination where waterfront tables abound, it may be difficult to narrow down the field when it comes to decadent dining options. To experience the city's culinary scene from a new perspective, visitors can look to the air, land and sea. **Topside at Lido House**, Newport Beach's only rooftop bar, is a standout spot to take in a coastal sunset with Champagne, cocktails and small bites. On Balboa Peninsula, **Lighthouse Café** not only pays homage to Newport's nautical founding, but also has an upper deck with unobstructed views of Newport Harbor and Marina Park where diners can enjoy classic American fare for brunch and dinner. To dine over the sand, the charming **Beachcomber Cafe** in the Crystal Cove Historic District offers Orange County's best on-the-beach experience, pairing vintage vibes with seasonally inspired coastal cuisine. For a tropical twist on Newport's classic dock and dine, try a **tiki cruise** where you can bring your own drinks and food to enjoy beneath a straw-thatched roof while leisurely floating on the bay. Finally, visitors can find a subterranean setting at **Under CdM**, a speakeasy beneath CdM Restaurant that crafts one of the most creative cocktail lists offered along the coast.

NEWPORT BEACH ICONS

Some restaurants are deeply woven into the destination's DNA, offering elevated cuisine in timeless settings that date back to the earliest days of Newport Beach. **A Restaurant** is a fixture on Coast Highway, one of the city's first restaurants that opened as The Arches in the 1920s and now serves a contemporary take on steak and seafood. Another landmark down the coast in Corona del Mar is **Five Crowns**, the neighborhood's oldest restaurant built in the 1930s that was a revolving door of concepts until 1965, when it adopted its current brand — and the renowned prime rib dinner that continues to delight modern diners. In 1921, the city's first commercial cannery sold its first lot of fish in a building that would become a waterfront restaurant in 1973. **The Cannery** preserves this iconic piece of Newport Beach history, serving seafood of the Pacific from its beautiful waterfront locale. Nobody does seafood quite like The Crab Cooker. With humble beginnings dating back to 1951, this iconic restaurant has proven to be a cherished Newport Beach institution, drawing seafood enthusiasts from near and far. Nestled on Balboa Island's charming Marine Avenue, The Village Inn is a quaint and historic watering hole with a cozy, local feel. Since 1933, this corner-spot restaurant has been serving American comfort food, along with a wide selection of craft cocktails, draft beer and domestic wines.

RAISING THE BAR

For decades, two Balboa Island snack shops have battled it out for a coveted designation: the "original" frozen banana stand (as seen on Arrested Development!) and inventor of the Balboa Bar, a chocolate-dipped ice cream confection freshly rolled in toppings that range from classic nuts and rainbow sprinkles to toffee bits, Oreo crumbles, coconut shreds and more. Located just 100 feet apart on Marine Avenue, **Dad's Donuts** and **Sugar 'n Spice** are dueling classics that each offer their own take on these historically tempting treats, as well as a compelling origin story of how the Balboa Bar came to be. More than 75 years later, visitors are invited to be the judge of who's freezing out the competition when it comes to this iconic Newport Beach treat.

DOG-FRIENDLY DINING

Newport Beach is paradise for canine companions, from a world-class shopping center that welcomes pets to dog-friendly beaches and bayfront. The destination's numerous restaurants are no exception, with countless options for alfresco dining under the sun with four-legged friends in tow. Cozy up to a patio at **Fashion Island**, where restaurants like **Great Maple** even offer pet menus with complimentary bowls of water and bites like bacon and pup patties available to order. Around town, visitors can find breezy eateries in every neighborhood where dogs are welcome: the quaint **Wilma's Patio** on Balboa Island, the Parisian-style **Moulin** in the Airport District, Corona del Mar's sophisticated **Zinc Cafe**, the popular breakfast nook **Haute Cakes Caffe** in Westcliff, seafood staple **Bear Flag Fish Co.** in Lido Village, and so many more.