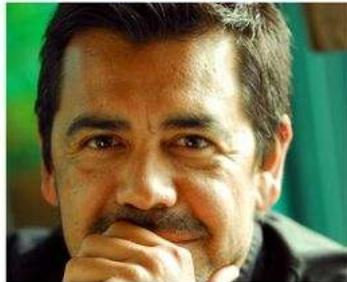


EATER

San Diego's Most Anticipated Restaurant Openings of 2015

by [Candice Woo](#) Jan 7 2015, 10:54a



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What on the food horizon?

As we enter 2015, there's a lot to look forward to, food-wise. Several San Diego projects made Eater's list of the **33 Most Anticipated Openings** from around the country, and now we turn our attention to more local restaurants that will be launching this year.

Here now are some of **San Diego's Most Anticipated Openings of 2015**. Which one are you most excited to try? Leave your favorite pick in the comments, or add mention of another opening that we should be tracking.



Bracero

Location: 1490 Kettner Blvd. San Diego, CA 92101

Projected Opening: Late March

This 4,800-square-foot, two-level restaurant, with a bar dedicated to craft liquor and Baja wine, will feature a **modern Mexican menu** of small and large family-style, shareable plates from notable chef/restaurateur **Javier**

Plascencia. **Bracero's**winning combination of Plascencia's food prowess and design from Bells & Whistles (Starlite, Sycamore Den) should help to further solidify Little Italy's dining appeal.



CATANIA

• Coastal Italian •

Catania

Location: 7863 Girard Ave, Suite 301 La Jolla, CA 92037

Projected Opening: March 1

Whisknadle Hospitality's next big restaurant project hinges on a **dining room with a serious view**, perched above downtown La Jolla. **Catania** is expected to deliver a seasonal and thoughtful menu, fueled by a wood over and grill and inspired by coastal Italian cuisine. The beverage program should also be notable for its all-Italian craft beer lineup and Italian spirits-fueled cocktail list.



The Heart & Trotter

Location: 2855 El Cajon Blvd San Diego, CA 92104

Projected Opening: February

The [Kickstarter success story](#) is in the home stretch. [The Heart & Trotter](#) just posted a [photo of their nearly-completed space on Facebook](#), where the local meat hub will also sell gourmet food items, with chef Lhasa Landry preparing light bites and making sausages in-house. The butchery/eatery is also planning on serving beer and wine.



Untitled Richard Blais Project

Location: 2266 Kettner Blvd. San Diego, CA 92101

Projected Opening: TBA

Less than a year after [opening Juniper & Ivy](#), his stunning and wildly popular showcase for chef Richard Blais, owner Michael Rosen of Juniper Hospitality is [reportedly planning to open a second eatery](#) that will share the same Little Italy footprint. Other than that it will be most casual than J&I, details on the new project are scarce, but the Eater tipline hints that it **may have a southern food focus**. We're hearing fried chicken.



Untitled Brian Malarkey Project

Location: 2210 Kettner Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92101

Projected Opening: Summer

Little Italy will be the newest stage for chef Brian Malarkey, who re-partners with Hakkasan Ltd. for a yet-unnamed 9,000-square-foot restaurant project with Michael Soriano (Queenstown, The Pearl) on board to design. We're hearing that the kitchen will center around a wood fire grill and that the **concept will include an outdoor herb garden**

and upscale market component a la Dean & DeLuca.



Rustic Root

Location: 535 Fifth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101

Projected Opening: Spring

A counterpart to Don Chido, **which debuted last year, Rustic Root** will also feature a menu by executive chef Antonio Friscia. Designed by Davis Ink Ltd. (AD Nightclub, PARQ), **the new farm-to-table eatery** from RMD Group and Ken Lovi of The Knotty Barrel will focus on "rustic American cuisine" and have the Gaslamp's only dedicated restaurant rooftop.



The Backyard

Location: 2855 Perry Road San Diego, CA 92106

Projected Opening: Spring

The latest from The Patio Restaurant Group will be housed in a historic Navy fire house in Liberty Station, with seating for 300 that encompasses two large outdoor dining areas and bars. Going for a "best backyard party" ever vibe, the menu will be

curated by the hospitality group's executive chef, John Medall, and will be cooked on **custom-made wood-fired grills, smokers and a pizza oven.**



Coastera

Location: 880 Harbor Island Drive San Diego, CA 92101

Projected Opening: Spring

The newly-named Harbor Island project, spanning 24,000-square-feet of **restaurant, lounge and event center**, is ambitious even for seasoned pros like the Cohn Restaurant Group. The 300-seat bayside restaurant, overseen by chef/partner Deborah Scott, will feature modern interpretations on regional Mexican food.



Water Grill

Location: 615 J Street, San Diego, CA 92101

Projected Opening: Early February

Replacing The Palm in the Gaslamp is the 310-seat Water Grill, a new **seasonal seafood destination** that will include a raw bar component and a private dining room and bar on each of the restaurant's two levels. Fabrice Poigin, a well-known local chef, has been **tapped to lead the kitchen.**



Oceana Coastal Kitchen

Location: 3999 Mission Blvd, San Diego, CA 92109

Projected Opening: January/February

The **Catamaran Hotel & Spa** steps up its food game with this new chef centerpiece currently in construction on the Mission Bay waterfront. Chef Riemer's "California comfort food" menu will

focus on seasonal ingredients and seafood, served in a tropical and tiki-inspired setting.



Backyard Kitchen & Tap

Location: 832 Garnet Avenue in Pacific Beach, CA 92109

Projected Opening: Early February

Eric Leitstein (Union Kitchen & Tap) is bringing craft cocktails and more local beer to the beach with a renovation of Moondoggie's that will feature indoor/outdoor dining and bar spaces, cabanas, living walls and fire pits, with James Nunn as executive chef of a rustic menu that includes weekend brunch.