



This corner of California is one of the city's friendliest and most food-focused areas

EAT

Throw table manners out of the window for brunch at The Crack Shack, (crack-shack.com). The 'California dip' burger, with schmaltz fries cooked in chicken fat, pickled jalapeño and avocado, promises to soothe 'ruffled feathers'. A short walk away is Herb & Wood (herbandwood.com) from *Top Chef* star, Brian Malarkey. Stand-out dishes include braised beef belly with charred spring onion salsa verde. Next door is Juniper & Ivy (juniperandivy.com), from another TV chef, Richard Blais. From the first bite of the buttermilk biscuits to the last lick of peach Pavlova, you're in good hands.

DRINK

If you don't stop off for iced lattes at least twice a day, then you're not really 'doing' San Diego. Dip your toe in the water at Lofty Coffee Co. (loftycoffee.com) – which also bakes its own swoonsome cinnamon rolls from scratch. After sundown, discover why this is the craft beer capital of the USA and hotfoot it to Bottlecraft (bottlecraftbeer.com). Its relaxed tasting room offers hundreds of local bottled beers, 25 on draft and two casks.

SHOP

At the Little Italy Mercato (Saturdays, 8am to 2pm), more than 175 farmers and vendors sell everything from handmade wooden shaving bowls to fresh ready-to-eat sea urchins. Round the corner, Love & Aesthetics (loveandaesthetics.com) is the retail equivalent of the emo kid who grew up to become a globetrotting tastemaker. Pick up stylish homeware, jewellery and more from brands exclusive to the San Diego area.

SEE

Amici Park (littleitalysd.com) boasts a chic dog park for premier pooch appreciation, bocce (boules) courts, and an amphitheatre where Italian films are screened every Saturday evening during the Little Italy Summer Film Festival this month. Or hop over the border to Mexico – Tijuana is just a 30-minute drive away. Let's Go Clandestino tours (lets goclandestino.net) will pick you up at a place of your choosing and whisk you around the beautiful Baja region and beyond.

Clockwise from left

Roasted beet salad with burrata, walnut pesto and jamón ibérico from Herb & Wood; Love & Aesthetics; The Crack Shack is on a mission to elevate the humble chicken



BRITISH AIRWAYS HOLIDAYS

AL BUSTAN PALACE, A RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL, MUSCAT

Set between mountains and the sea of Oman, Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel, reopens in November after being refurbished. The hotel features 200 acres of lush gardens and the longest private beach in the Sultanate. BA offers three nights from £1,099pp for selected departures in November, including return flights from Heathrow and accommodation with breakfast.* ba.com/muscat