



On Target

It may not be a neighborhood spot just around the corner in the Ranch or on the coast, but taking a seat at Decoy Docksiding Dining, a brand-new spot overlooking Lake San Marcos, one can feel plenty at home. Nestled in this rapidly growing inland community, a gourmand's point of view is delivered by a menu that features a medley of Mediterranean and New American dishes. The high-ceilinged combo bar and dining room feels like an upscale lodge.

Start with house-cured charcuterie, a strawberry-adorned take on caprese with a chilly burrata component, or a surf-and-turf of sorts: roasted bone marrow with bay scallops. House-made

pastas are toothsome and different — buccatini and duck confit replace the traditional spaghetti and pancetta in a carbonara preparation. The gnocchetti are topped by rabbit sugo with roasted carrot.

For main courses, a hefty filet of salmon comes with a spicy, well-crisped skin and a delightful and unexpected sweet-and-sour raisin condiment. Request a seat on the back patio overlooking the lake, or get close to the action downstairs at the more casual Dock Bar, which offers salads, sandwiches, and wood-fired flatbreads.

Try a lake boat ride from 4-8pm — it's an experience that's as immersive as you'd like it to be, and another brilliant addition to San Marcos' pace-setting Lakehouse Hotel & Resort. 760.744.0120, lakehousehotelandresort.com/decoy BRANDON HERNÁNDEZ

Get Happy

Southern California sandwich destination Mendocino Farms' newest location is sprouting up this month in La Jolla. On a mission to help guests "Eat Happy," the restaurant features a chef-driven menu that changes with the seasons. Devoted to partnering with local farms and food artisans to create inspired dishes, the culinary team specializes in approachably adventurous sandwiches and salads.

Growth has been explosive for the company, founded in 2005 by Mario Del Pero and Ellen Chen. The pair's concept promotes a farm-to-table philosophy by using locally-sourced ingredients in its menu. They wanted to create community gathering places where friends, families, and coworkers can come together over a good meal and learn something about local farms or specialty ingredients.

Following the opening in La Jolla, a Del Mar location (the company's 16th) is scheduled to open in Spring 2017 in Del Mar Highlands. mendocinofarms.com JAMES FERRARO

