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FEATURE

9 Things LA Does Better Than Anywhere Else

By Lesley Balla | January 25, 2016



Photo by: Din Tai Fung

The stereotype that LA is full of health nuts eating tofu and drinking wheatgrass juice is not entirely wrong — we do love our vegan food and juice bars, and we do them well. But this crazy sprawling metropolis is home to so much more great food, from French dips and farmer's market fare to some of the most incredible Korean, Chinese and Mexican food outside of those countries. LA is really all about balance, you see. New York can have its bagels and pizza, Chicago its hot dogs, but we have a lot of great food that we do better than anywhere else. Read on.

Eating On (or Near) the Beach

Let's face it: there's beautiful Southern California coastline from Malibu all the way to San Diego, so you can be sure we have some fun and fabulous spots to eat near the surf and sand. There's [Paradise Cove](#), where you can sit in Adirondack chairs in the sand with a bowl of peanuts and a couple of beers; simple seasonal brunch at [Malibu Farm Pier Cafe](#) on the Malibu Pier; star sightings and sushi at [Nobu](#); and shellfish towers and martinis near the crashing waves at [Mastro's Ocean Club](#). In Santa Monica, it's [The Lobster](#) or super-casual eats on the pier; swanky sunset dinners at [One Pico](#) at Shutters on the Beach or [Catch](#) at Casa del Mar. In Venice, there are cheap eats all along the Boardwalk, like fresh-cut fries at [The Wee Chippy](#) and poke at [Poke-Poke](#); beer and (mostly) organic bar food at [Venice Ale House](#); and cocktails and more at [Venice Whaler](#). In the South Bay, [The Strand House](#) has amazing views and a hot scene in Manhattan Beach, with fantastic finds just a hop and a skip from the pier and beach, including [Fishing With Dynamite](#), [MB Post](#), [Little Sister](#), [Love & Salt](#) and [Rock'N Fish](#). In Hermosa Beach, boozy pubs like [Hennessey's Tavern](#) and [The Mermaid](#), which is back in action (owned by the Killer Shrimp people), are always packed. In Redondo Beach, crack crabs on the pier at [Quality Seafood](#). For a fun outing that feels like an out-of-town trip, hit the gorgeous outlook restaurants at [Terranea](#) in Rancho Palos Verdes. Seriously, you just don't get that in Ohio.