

BY PAM KRAGEN

THE DISH

NEWS FROM THE BAR AND RESTAURANT INDUSTRY IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Six new restaurants have opened around the county in recent weeks or are coming soon. Here's a roundup.

South of Nick's debuts at One Paseo

South of Nick's Mexican Kitchen + Bar, a sister concept to Nick's Del Mar restaurant, has opened right next door in the former International Smoke location in the One Paseo shopping center.

Like Nick's, an elevated American restaurant born in Laguna Beach in 2008, South of Nick's has locations in Laguna Beach and San Clemente. South of Nick's offers an extensive menu of Mexican appetizers, soups, salads, steak and seafood dishes and cocktails. Specialties include stacked birria enchiladas, filet mignon ranchero, scallops divorciadas and seafood chile relleno. For now, South of Nick's is open only for dinner service from 4 p.m. daily. One Paseo, 3387 Del Mar Heights Road, San Diego. nicksrestaurants.com

White Rice Panciteria

South Bay's most prominent Filipino chef, Phillip Esteban, has opened a new Filipino restaurant concept in National City's Market on 8th food hall.

When the food hall opened in October 2021, Esteban was one of its first purveyors, running both the cookbook/housewares shop Wordsmith and the second location of his Weapon Ramen concept. But when the hall's original Serbesa Filipino Kitchen shut down last month, Esteban decided to transform his Japanese ramen concept so that Market on 8th would still have a Filipino restaurant.

On June 12, Esteban opened White Rice Panciteria in the former ramen space. It joins his White Rice silog bowl shop at Liberty Station, White Rice Bodega in Normal Heights and, opening July 15, White Rice Morena in Linda Vista. The Panciteria carries some of the other stores' menu items but specializes in Filipino noodle dishes. Market on 8th is at 31 E. Eighth St., National City. marketon8thstreet.com

Corner Pizza opens in Oceanside

Corner Pizza, which opened its first location in Leucadia at the end of 2020, opened



SOUTH OF NICK'S

Various dishes from South of Nick's Mexican Kitchen + Bar, which is now open at the One Paseo center in Del Mar.

its second location in Oceanside on Thursday.

Owned by Leucadia Co., the same restaurant group that runs Moto Deli, Valentina and Hamburger Hut, Corner Pizza serves Brooklyn-style pizzas along with biodynamic international wines, entree salads and a raw bar. One of its specialty pies is the Killer Bee, topped with charred pepperoni, soppressata sausage, Gorgonzola cheese and chili honey.

The Oceanside location — with 78 seats, including 46 outdoors — is in the Freeman Collective building at 1940 S. Freeman St., Oceanside. Visit corner-pizza.com.

Ramen Nagi coming to UTC

Michelin-starred Ramen Nagi, one of the most famous ramen restaurant chains in Tokyo, will open its first San Diego County location later this summer at Westfield UTC shopping center.

Founded in 2004 by chef Satoshi Ikuta, Ramen Nagi is known for its silky noodles and slow-cooked, cutting-edge broth flavors. Over the years the company has grown to 35 locations worldwide, including a handful along the California coast that have opened in the past five years. Ramen Nagi will open in the shopping mall's restaurant row area. 4545 La Jolla Village Drive, San Diego. ramennagiusa.com



BRENDAN CLEAK

Justin Gaspar's Hommage Bakehouse is operating in a pop-up through July 15 in the farm truck at One Paseo.

Hommage bakery pop-up

Hommage Bakehouse, a pastry business run by chef and Hulu's "Baker's Dozen" alumnus Justin Gaspar, is doing a short-term pop-up bakery in the farm truck at One Paseo shopping center in Del Mar.

The pop-up is open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily, or until sold out, through July 15 (but closed July 3-5). Items include bagels, focaccia, sandwiches, savory Danishes, "cookie

muffins," breads, scones and croissants. Hommage has had residencies at locations around San Diego as it prepares to open a full-service bakery-shop in the Mission Valley area later this year. One Paseo, 3387 Del Mar Heights Road, San Diego. hommagebakehouse.com

Poki Bowl opens in Mission Valley

Poki Bowl, a poke restaurant chain founded by chef Nick Nguyen in San Jose in 2015, opened its first San Diego County location on June 3. The new location is in the Civita development at 7995 Civita Blvd., Suite 15, in Mission Valley. Visit pokibowl.com.

Restaurants join giveback campaign

In honor of National Make a Difference in a Child's Life Month, 10 San Diego County restaurants will donate a portion of their sales to Feeding San Diego during the month of July. The donations range from \$1 to 50 percent of sales on specific menu items. The participants are Arely's French Bakery; Barrio Star; Barleymash/Ginger's; City Tacos; Cloak & Petal; Jose's Courtroom; Mavericks Beach Club; Quiero Restaurants; Sandbar; and The Smoking Gun/Spill the Beans. Details at each location.

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