

SOCAL INSIDER

APRIL 2018 // A GUIDE TO WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW IN YOUR AREA



Joe & the Juice

SIP / WEST HOLLYWOOD

Hot shots

Some mornings you need a double espresso; other days, a fresh-pressed juice is what's calling your name. Either way, it doesn't hurt when the person preparing your drink is as good-looking as the surroundings. Checking all the aforementioned boxes is **Joe & the Juice**, founded in Copenhagen and currently multiplying at a stunning rate across the world. At its first SoCal location in WeHo, you can choose from a rainbow of power shots and juices like the C-Shot Sweet (red bell pepper, apple, and lemon) or opt for a healthy shake or smooth cappuccino. Hurry, though: With two additional L.A. locations opening—not to mention dozens more throughout Europe and Southeast Asia—some are predicting that this could be the next Starbucks. joejuice.com.

Little Ruby



NEW

LOS ANGELES

SHOP / Since **Away's** sleek, hard-shell carry-on suitcase went gangbusters online, the brand opened its first concept location on Manhattan's swanky Bond Street in 2016. Luckily for West Coasters, they have expanded their empire-on-wheels to the West Coast with a sharp new brick-and-mortar shop on Melrose. On view are five sizes and eight colors, ranging from blush to asphalt to brick. You can pry into the enclosed laundry bag, jiggle the TSA-approved locking mechanism, plug into the built-in USB port that charges your phone, and roll out with

a modern pull-behind with jet-set style. awaytravel.com.

DO / Last year, the 32-acre tract of open land adjacent to downtown that Angelenos have long nicknamed "the cornfield" became **Los Angeles State Historic Park**. A \$20 million renovation added green space, public art, native plants, and an eye-friendly modern ranger station. A rarity among state parks, it's mass-transit accessible via the Gold Line train that runs through Chinatown. The lawns beg for picnics and kites. A paved walkway leads out to the Roundhouse Bridge, a semi-circular raised platform where you will want to shoot some selfies in front of DTLA's sky-

scrapers. On the first Friday of each month, rangers host campfires complete with s'mores while they hold forth on local wildlife and history. Kicking off the lineup of spring events in the park is the Renegade Craft Fair (*Apr 21–22; renegadecraft.com*), a showcase of high-design clothing, accessories, art, and housewares from makers around the country. lashp.com.

DO / Sometime around early 2012, a lone male mountain lion left his birthplace in the Santa Monica Mountains and wandered east. Thirty miles later, after somehow crossing two of the country's busiest 12-lane freeways—Interstate 405 and U.S. 101—that daring cat, later named P-22 by National Park Service scientists, ended up in Griffith Park. And he's still out there somewhere, wandering the untamed hills of one of the

nation's largest urban wildernesses. **The Story of P-22, L.A.'s Most Famous Feline**, a pop-up exhibit at the Natural History Museum, pays homage to the cougar, tracking his arduous journey and showing how and where he finds food. Stunning photos and video footage of P-22 roaming his territory at night get you closer to him than you'd ever want to be in real life, courtesy of non-intervening "camera traps" planted throughout the park. *Through July; nhm.org*.

SANTA MONICA

EAT / Launched in Manhattan, **Little Ruby** offers super-fresh cuisine that presents as New American—save for the stray Aussie ingredient and burgers named after Sydney beaches. Now it's arrived on the West Coast, in the form of a bright, unpretentious cafe fronting Santa Monica Boulevard just

TOP 3

Reinventing the wheels

So you already recycle, compost, buy organic groceries, and use all-natural everything... what's next? Consider cleaning up your commute by visiting a green-car show at a nearby Earth Day festival.

Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival in Alameda Park hosts the biggest green-car show in Southern California. See the newest plug-in hybrids and hydrogen fuel-cell electrics, learn about federal and state financing incentives, and take a test drive. *April 21–22; sbgreencarshow.org*.

In addition to outdoor yoga, a recycled-crafts center, and live music, the **Ventura Earth Day Eco Fest** in Plaza Park features a Green Auto Expo where you can browse everything from tiny Smart cars to hybrid Ford Fusions. *April 21; venturaearthday.org*.

With 60,000 visitors in Plaza Park, San Diego's **EarthFair** is one of the world's largest. Its Cleaner Car Concourse showcases not just the usual commercial vehicles, but individually built cars and conversions as well. Start saving up that used vegetable oil. *April 22; earthdayweb.org*.



yards from the beach. The unadorned digs almost under-sell the seriously good fare to be had inside: This is definitely a sit-down dinner, not grab-and-go. Start with an Aperol spritz and a salad of baby spinach, pumpkin, and pine nuts. You can't skip the fried chicken sandwich—the current patron saint of L.A. sammies—but also check out the excellent pastas, especially the pappardelle with lamb ragù. And if you've never tried the Aussie dessert called “date pudding,” be aware that it tastes neither of dates nor of pudding but like the spongiest warm spice cake ever. You might just be back the next day for breakfast and lunch. littleruby.com.

HIT LIST

BEVERLY HILLS

SHOP / You may be missing the spring tulip bloom in Paris, but **Ladurée** is the next best thing. The famed French *macaron* maker, established in 1862, boxes up decadent French pastries—the perfect small gift or sweet treat—while you sip orange blossom tea or nibble a mushroom tart. laduree.us.

BURBANK

SIP / Industrial park setting? Check. Exposed girder ceilings? Yep. What sets **Verdugo West Brewing Co.** apart from its peers is the audacity of the beer itself. Sure, you'll find a crowd-friendly IPA, but why not go out on a limb and try a lager

JESSICA ANTOLA



VISIT Sitka ALASKA



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brewed with puffed jasmine rice? Lean even further toward the edge with the Rancho Los Felis, a sour blonde ale made with purple Italian plums that balance its pucker with just the right amount of sweet. verdugowestbrewing.com.

COSTA MESA

DO / If you're one of those people who thinks, "Modern dance looks beautiful, but I really don't know much about it," well, you're not alone. To get your bearings, you may as well start at the top. This month, Segerstrom Center for the Arts is putting on a run of performances by what might just be the world's premier modern dance troupe: the **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**.

On April 19–22, the company will perform *Revelations*, Ailey's 1960 masterpiece exploring the legacy of slavery, set to gospel music and spirituals. sefta.org.

CULVER CITY

SHOP / To get a jump on spring trends, look to **Bird**, the Brooklyn-based boutique with a location at the Platform shopping center. Count on an afternoon browse to yield eye-catching clothing, shoes, handbags, and jewelry from established and up-and-coming designers. birdbrooklyn.com.

LOS ANGELES

EAT / Angelenos know that pulling into a humble strip mall to check out a restaurant isn't necessarily a red flag. Need

proof? Hit up **Fat Dragon** on Sunset Boulevard for stellar Chinese takeout. Or stay. The humble storefront belies a hip, minimalist space where you can scarf down dry-sautéed green beans, wontons drizzled in Sichuan chili sauce, and fat, crunchy panfried noodles at a sleek communal table while cooling down with a ginger-rose Hong Kong milk tea.

fatdragonla.com.

SHOP / **Rachel Comey** is breaking gender barriers with her unisex designs—as well as cuteness barriers with her mid-heeled shoes. The pant selections at her shop on Melrose time travel from cigarette pants to disco-goddess wear. And let's not even start on the denim.

Plus, the wraparound rattan bench seat will make you want to hang out all day, even if you're not in a buying mood. rachelcomey.com.

EAT / **Redbird**'s courtyard-like dining room—housed in an airy, light-flooded building that was once the rectory of the Cathedral of St. Vibiana—is drop-dead gorgeous, populated with palms and splashes of greenery. Chef Neal Fraser's globe-trotting menu ranges from an herb-inflected chicken potpie to the most-talked-about barbecued tofu in Los Angeles. Between bites, dive into the bar director Tobin Shea's Silk Road cocktail collection, featuring ingredients inspired by the old China-to-Rome route. redbird.la.

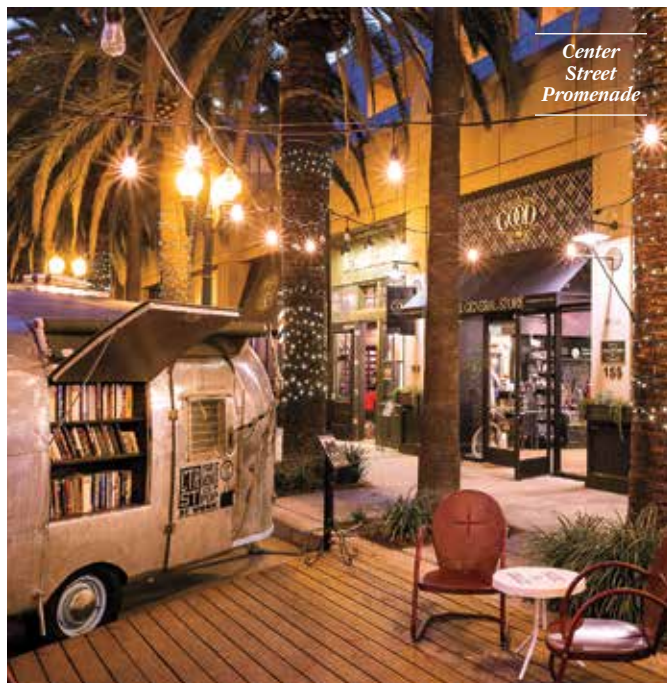
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Center
Street
Promenade

DAY TRIP

Beyond Disneyland

Less than 2 miles from the most magical place on Earth, Anaheim's Center City is luring visitors and locals to destinations lodged in historic buildings. Spend an afternoon in the real world.

1 P.M. / Wander through the **Packing House**, a former Sunkist citrus plant that now features a two-story food hall. It won't be easy to choose, but you can't go wrong with one of nine varieties of grilled cheese from The Black Sheep. Once nourished, stop into Seed Peoples Market to browse their camping, home, and beauty products, like wooden flashlights and Honey Belle soaps and scrubs. anaheimpackingdistrict.com.

2 P.M. / A few blocks away, **Center Street Promenade** is home to 16 cafes and boutiques hawking everything from goat cheese to haircuts to comic books. Check out the recently opened shop Good Things, where you can sip a beer, listen to some vinyl, and look around. Everything in this vintage hangout is for sale, from the decor to the records and books and even the very glass in your hand. centerstreetanaheim.com; goodthingsanaheim.com.

3 P.M. / Nerds and those who love them must duck into **Requiem Coffee, Tea, and Fantasy**, a coffee shop that celebrates gamer culture with four distinct, otherworldly seating and gaming areas decked out like a space station, a medieval castle, an Arthurian forest, and a steampunk lounge. Order up a latte, and if you feel like it, join in on a board, card, or video game. requiemcoffee.com.

4 P.M. / A 10,000-square-foot warehouse that was once an early 1900s marmalade factory is now the **Make Building**, a gorgeous modern structure of wood, steel, and stone that houses tasting rooms for Unsung Brewery Co. and Pali Wine Co. Pick your poison and relax like an adult with a very grown-up drink. anaheimmake.com.

SIP / At the **Tabula Rasa Bar** in Thai Town, one long wall is lined with cushy banquettes; from that comfy vantage point, guests throw back glasses of seriously out-there vino. Don't worry if wines like the Hatton Daniels RouMars or the Croatian Malvasia don't ring a bell. Just go with the flow, confident that you're riding the vinous avant-garde. Bar bites from nuts to pickles, sausages, cheese, and potato chips will work well with the wines, or with one of the many beers on tap. tabularasabar.com.

NEWPORT BEACH

SHOP / The furniture at **The Find Consignments** might look freshly designed, but it's not—it's just carefully vetted. New used items (sounds like a contradiction in terms, we know) arrive every day; you might find a modern metal bunk bed or a traditional secretary desk, a claw-foot tub or a set of teak patio chairs. Trust us: Your house will thank you. (949) 650-3463.

ORANGE

SIP / The menu at **Watson's Soda Fountain & Cafe** elevates the nostalgic soda-fountain trend for the 21-and-over set, whipping up chocolate bourbon malts and stout shakes made with Guinness and vanilla ice cream. Slide into the vinyl booths under the stamped-tin ceilings for a burger with a kick of pepperjack cheese, fried jalapeños, and Sriracha mayo. Up front, the diner pays tribute to its roots as a 19th-century pharmacy, with apothecary cabinets showcasing vintage drugstore products and medicine bottles. watsonscafe.com.

Rose
Cafe

VENICE

EAT / Adios, Champagne and mimosas—craft brewer Firestone Walker's Venice taproom, **The Propagator**, delivers a brunch unlike any other. Start with a refreshing, low-alcohol, utterly morning-friendly Brettta Weisse, their take on a traditional German sour ale. The huevos rancheros pizza has a blistered thin crust, and the crunchy fried PB&J has bacon on the inside. Hangover, be-gone. firestonebeer.com.

EAT / Locals flocked to Venice's **Rose Cafe** for more than 30 years for the strong coffee and soulful breakfasts; thanks to a 2016 reboot that transformed both the interior and the menu, it's now attracting a new set of customers. Local artist Craig Stecyk's brightly colored surf- and skate-inspired posters add a blast of life to the dining room, while chef Jason Neroni's market-fresh menu runs from inventive egg dishes at brunch to his famous smoked bucatini carbonara. rosecafevenice.com.

—EDITED BY ROBIN RINALDI