



La Mesa COURIER BEST OF 2023 LA MESA



Congratulations to our Winners

An important part of what makes La Mesa special are the businesses — big, medium and small — that are owned and staffed by the families and people in this wonderful community we call home. These individuals work hard, day in and day out, to provide great food, drink, arts, entertainment, retail shopping, medical services, law advice, repair services and much, much more to locals and those not from the area visiting these establishments. One of the most exciting times of the year for us at La Mesa Courier is the unveiling of our “Best of La Mesa” issue, which puts a spotlight on those who are doing the very best in a wide range of categories. Each year, we ask the most loyal readers around to nominate what restaurants, entertainment venues, stylists, designers and other businesses and professionals stand out most to them. Once again, we received hundreds of nominations from La Mesa residents eager to share their thoughts on the most deserving candidates. We tally the votes, compile a

directory and send out the awards — many of which readers will see proudly displayed on the wall of restaurant or office. Some of these businesses have been there for La Mesa residents and out-of-town shoppers for decades. Others have only just begun to make an impact on the community but have obviously caught the attention of local consumers by doing things the right way time and time again. We encourage readers to hang on to the following Best of La Mesa section throughout the year. It can be a handy companion for the next time you go in search of an optometrist, a car mechanic, a doctor, a Mexican dinner, a craft brewery or just a simple coffee with friends. Should you disagree with any of the winners, we encourage you to keep your eyes peeled for next year’s ballots and vote for the BEST OF LA MESA 2024. After all, the competition is part of the fun. Congratulations to all winners and thank you for all you do for La Mesa!





Congratulations to the following businesses who were chosen by the readers of the La Mesa Courier.

The business categories were published in ballot form over a period of 6 weeks. Readers were asked to cast ballots for their favorite choices. This was no simple task! With more than 100 categories, our readers came through with overwhelming response. We wish to thank all the readers who took the time to recognize these businesses which do so much to make La Mesa such a wonderful community.

Dining	Gold	Silver
Best New Restaurant	Casa Gabriela	Mastiff Kitchen
American	Dukes Old Fashion Onion Burgers	Curbside Eatery & Drinkery
Appetizer	Curbside Eatery & Drinkery	Casa Gabriela
Bakery	Centifonti's Bar & Restaurant	La Mesa Bistro & Bakery
Bar	Deano's Pub	Curbside Eatery & Drinkery
BBQ	West Coast Smoke and Tap House	Pioneer BBQ
Beer Selection	Coinhaus	Deano's Pub
Breakfast	Centifonti's Bar & Restaurant	Swamis Café La Mesa
Brewery	Helix Brewing Co.	Bolt Brewery & Beer Garden
Brunch	Curbside Eatery & Drinkery	Sheldon's Service Station
Burger	Dukes Old Fashion Onion Burgers	Johnny B's Burgers, Brews & Spirits
Burrito	El Azteca	Casa Gabriela
Cafe	Sheldon's Service Station	Swamis Café La Mesa
Casino	Sycuan Casino Resort	Barona
Casual Dining	Curbside Eatery & Drinkery	Little Roma
Coffee Shop	Brew Coffee Spot/Public Square Coffee House	Pink Rose Cafe
Chinese	Wong's Golden Dragon	Chopsticks Inn Restaurant
Deli	Trolley Stop Deli	D Z Akin's
Desserts	Centifonti's Bar & Restaurant	Casa Gabriela
Dinner	Casa Gabriela	Anthony's Fish Grotto
Donuts	Sunny Donuts	Yum Yum Donuts
Fine Dining	Anthony's Fish Grotto	Brigantine Seafood & Oyster Bar
Fish Taco	City Tacos Village Taqueria	Casa Gabriela
Greek	Petrinos Greek Restaurant	JK Greek Cafe
Happy Hour	Deano's Pub	Johnny B's Burgers, Brews & Spirits
Ice Cream/Frozen Yogurt	Centifonti's Bar & Restaurant	The Yogurt Mill of La Mesa
Inidan	Himalayan	Yak and Yeti
Irish Pub	Hoooley's	
Italian	Little Roma Restaurant	Aromi Italian Cuisine
Japanese	Banbu Sushi Bar & Grill	Konnichwia Sushi & Bar
Juice Bar	Jamba Juice - Grossmont	Natural Delights
Live Music	Deano's Pub	La Mesa Wine Works
Lunch	Curbside Eatery & Drinkery	Boss Bird Kitchen
Margarita	Curbside Eatery & Drinkery	Casa de Pico
Martini	Curbside Eatery & Drinkery	Johnny B's Burgers, Brews & Spirits
Mexican	Casa de Pico	Casa Gabriela
Mediterranean	Petrinos Greek Restaurant	The Grill at Vine Ripe
Patio Dining	Anthony's Fish Grotto	Casa de Pico
Pet Friendly	Curbside Eatery & Drinkery	Anthony's Fish Grotto
Pho	Pho Super Bowl	Phra Ram # 9
Poke	Konnichiwa Sushi & Bar	Banbu Sushi Bar & Grill
Pizza	Surf Rider Pizza Company	D' Amatos Pizza
Sandwich	Trolley Stop Deli	Curbside Eatery & Drinkery
Seafood	Anthony's Fish Grotto	Brigantine Seafood & Oyster Bar
Sports Bar	Deano's Pub	Johnny B's Burgers, Brews & Spirits
Steak	Riviera Supper Club	Brigantine Seafood & Oyster Bar
Sushi	Banbu Sushi Bar & Grill	Konnichwia Sushi & Bar
Thai	Hug Thai Express	Tamarid Thai
Vegetarian	El Veganito	Hug Thai Express
Wine Bar	San Pasqual Winery	La Mesa Wine Works
Wings	Johnny B's Burgers, Brews & Spirits	Pioneer BBQ
Retail	Retail	Retail
Accountant	Mc Rea Woodson & Associates, Inc	Pauley & Wilson CPA
Acupuncture	Full Circle Acupuncture	Melanie A. Culp, LAC
Antiques	David A's Estate Antiques	La Mesa Antiques
Art Gallery	Nainsook Framing & Art	Porter Hall Gallery
Attorney	Family Law San Diego	McGovern Law Group
Auto Dealer	Bob Stall Chevrolet	Team Kia
Auto Repair	John's Automotive	Tune Craft La Mesa
Bank	San Diego County Credit Union	Chase
Barber	Boulevard Barber & Shave	La Mesa Barber Shop
Bike Shop	Trek	Pedal Pushing Bicycle Shop
Billards	Deano's Pub	On Que Billards
Boutique	Uneekie Boutique / Sara's Boutique	Rustica Boutique
Car Wash	Aqua Clean Car Wash	Soapy Joes
Childcare	Europa Family Child Care	St. Andrews
Chiropractor	Essential / A Chiropractic Studio	La Mesa Spine Center
Computer Repair	Pacific Computer Services	Tech 2 U
Consignment Retail / Clothing	Act II Resale	Looks Better on Me
Consignment Retail / Furniture	The Consignment Shack	
Cosmetic Services	The Upper Hand Spa	Little Lash Shop
Credit Union	San Diego County Credit Union	California Coast Credit Union
Day Spa	The Upper Hand Spa	Spa Piel
Dentist	Great Smiles of La Mesa	Village Dental Checkup
Dermatologist	Dr. Maki C. Guskowicz	Grossmont Dermatology Medical Clinic
Dispensary	The Reserve	Lit La Mesa
Dry Cleaner	Mart Cleaners	Lena's Alterations & Dry Cleaning
Financial Planner	LPL Financial Services	Edward Jones - Donaven A. Yousif
Florist	La Mesa Floral Design Shoppe	The Floral Craft
Furniture	Mattress Makers	The Corner Store
Garden Supply	Dixieline Lumber	San Carlos Hardware
Hardware Store	Dixieline Lumber	La Mesa Lumber
Gift Shop	Amethyst Moon	Small Batch
Gym	Will Power Community Fitness	Chuze Fitness
Hair Salon	Cultivate Hair Love Design	Honey & Hive Salon
Health Food Store	Frazier Farms	Windmill Farms
Homecare/Caregiver	All Heart Home Care	Rebecca's Retreat 4 Seniors
Hospital	Sharp Grossmont	Kaiser Permanente
Insurance	Webster Insurance	Erickson Insurance Agency Inc.
Jewelry	Pierre Jewelers	You Jewelers & Boutique
Locksmith	Noble Locksmith	Adams Locksmith
Manicure/Pedicure	The Upper Hand Day Spa	Spa And Co Nail Salon
Massage	The Upper Hand Day Spa	Bodywork by Bobbi Wellness Center
Martial Arts	Jiu Jitsu Foundation	White Dragon Martial Arts - La Mesa
New Business	Dr. Pilates	Blossom & Bloom Dance School
Office Supply/Shipping	Postal Annex, La Mesa	She's The Shipper
Optometrist	Dr. Phillip Levy - Vision and Eye Care Exams	La Mesa Vision Care
Personal Trainer	Work Out With Kirk	Stevie Lynn Pilates
Pet Boarding/Day Care	The Dog Society	Doggie Dos
Pet Groomer	The Doggy Detailer & Self Wash	Doggie Dos
Pet Sitter	Doggie Dos	Pet - Tenders
Photographer	CeCe Cantón Photography	Katy Johnson Photography
Physical Therapist/Rehab	La Mesa Pulmonary Rehab	La Mesa Physical Therapy
Pilates	Dr. Pilates	Stevie Lynn Pilates
Plumber	Ideal Plumbing, Heating, Air & Electrical	Duane Moore
Pool Service	Payan Pool Service	East County Pool Service
Real Estate Agent	Jim O'Donnell - Realtor / Andera Flint-Gogek	Zandra Ulloa - Realtor
Real Estate Office	United Real Estate / Tranquility Real Estate	Team Z Realty
Retirement Living	Grossmont Gardens	The Montera / Westmont of La Mesa
Supplement Store	Frazier Farms	Sprouts
Tailor	Classic Alterations & Tailoring	Lily's Alterations
Tanning Salon	After Glo Beauty Lounge	Hot Topics Spray Tan
Tutoring	Mathnasium	Grossmont College
Veterinarian	La Mesa Pet Hospital	Helix Pet Hospital
Waxing/Threading	After Glo Beauty Lounge	Little Lash Shop
Yoga Studio	Corepower Yoga	Helix Yoga

Public Square Coffee

People are busy. We spend a majority of our days bumping into one another without noticing. Our eyes are on phones and our noses in laptops, working, staying busy, and attempting some semblance of relationship. Truth is, we're not actually connecting at all. Not authentically. We believe that people need a more genuine type of contact... Something real. Public Square is a place for exactly that: a place to see and be seen, a place to hear and be heard, and a place to serve and be served. We will do this in three ways: coffee, culture, and cause.

8278 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
619-777-8273

Best Chinese Cuisine Wong's Golden Palace

Wong's Golden Palace is a cornerstone in the La Mesa community and has been recognized for its outstanding Chinese cuisine, excellent service and friendly staff. They are known for its modern interpretation of classic dishes and its insistence on only using high quality fresh ingredients.

7126 University Ave, La Mesa
wongsgoldenpalaceca.com
619-465-9222

Best Deli Trolley Stop Deli

Trolley Stop Deli has striven to create the sandwiches, soups, salads, wraps, and other items using only quality ingredients. Everything on the menu is made fresh. This and the loyalty of customers is what keeps customers coming back.

8150 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa
trolleystopdeli.com
619-697-3354

Best Dessert Centifonti's Bar & Restaurant

(See listing under Best Bakery)

Best Dinner Casa Gabriela

(See listing under Best New Restaurant)

Best Donuts Sunny Donuts

You've heard the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears—this basically sums up the yummy donut selection at Sunny Donuts. Always just right.

4199 Spring St., La Mesa
sunnydonuts.com | 619-464-7566

Best Fine Dining Anthony's Fish Grotto

Anthony's Fish Grotto La Mesa is East County's premier spot to entertain family and out of town guests this holiday season. The gorgeous location is nestled on a private pond and was just awarded a "Keep La Mesa Beautiful" commendation for its lush landscaping. This local icon is renowned for its large selection of fresh seafood dishes, famous seafood salads, delicious cocktails, and a well-priced wine list. The location also offers multiple menu options and venues for group dining and banquets, as well as its own fresh seafood retail market. The retail market offers a great selection of hand-picked seafood, and also locally popular pre-made and ready-made holiday and game-day seafood party platters. Anthony's was started by Catherine "Mama" Ghio in 1946 and is still family owned and operated by her grandchildren. Her recipes and sauces are still closely held secrets made to the same exacting standards she demand-

ed 70 years ago.

9530 Murray Dr., La Mesa
anthonyfishgrotto.com
619-463-0368

Best Fish Taco City Taco Village Taqueria

This Taqueria has turned up the heat on innovative, delicious and unique bites. They prepare fresh Mex as it should be... "con sazón!" You'll find a special blend of positivity and seasoning here that makes the food pop! Born in San Diego's North Park neighborhood—proudly serving the community of La Mesa. They are dedicated to combining traditional recipes with SoCal flavor to make their tacos unique. Meat, fish, vegetarian, even Paleo offerings offer something for every taste. Dishes can also be topped with a variety of salsas. At the end of the day, they believe that food should be a celebration.

8325 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa(619)
467-7999
citytacossd.com

Greek Cuisine Petrino's Greek Restaurant

This Greek restaurant is not an Americanized eatery. If you'd like to experience traditional Greek food and recipes that go back generations—this is the place to go. You'll enjoy food that's authentic and tastes as if it came straight from Greece. Everything is entirely homemade, and they've been serving dishes that have come straight from family favorite recipes. It's so good you may want to break a plate and dance!

8302 Parkway Dr, La Mesa
greekrestaurantlamesa.com
619-741-7721

LITTLE ROMA

ITALIAN FOOD
BEER & WINE
61-7000

La Mesa COURIER BEST OF 2023 LA MESA

Thank You Readers Of The La Mesa Courier For Voting Us Gold For Best Italian & Casual Dining!

619-461-7000

5575 Baltimore Dr. #104 La Mesa

Buy one dinner at a regular price and get second for 50% OFF! Buy 2 get the 2nd item of equal or lesser value at 50% OFF, not valid with any other discount or coupon, not valid for Christmas Eve or New Year Eve, valid only for dine-in, Exp 12/31/2024. Offer only valid with coupon. Only 1 coupon per table.