

The San Diego Union-Tribune

# San Diego's best burgers

Memorial Day is also National Hamburger Day. We rounded up our favorite local burgers (not major chains like [In-N-Out](#)) and have listed alphabetically by neighborhood:



The burgers are so juicy at Pure Burger in Carlsbad they're served in a rimmed aluminum tray.  
(Pam Kragen/San Diego Union-Tribune)

## [Carlsbad](#)

**Pure Burger's** ultra-juicy, grass-fed, locally sourced, never-frozen burgers are the centerpiece of this quick-service, family-owned eatery in Bressi Ranch. 2641 Gateway Road. (760) 683-5101 or [pure-burger.com](http://pure-burger.com). **Notorious Burgers** has

10 burgers on the menu, but its Notorious is the signature. It's made with a Fulton Farms beef blend, honey-cured bacon, cave-aged cheddar, grilled onions, local tomatoes and a house spicy sauce. 6955 El Camino Real. (760) 431-2929 or [notoriousburgers.com](http://notoriousburgers.com). **Craft Burger** serves eight different half-pound Angus burgers on fresh-baked brioche buns. Simple and good. 300 Carlsbad Village Drive, Suite 120. (760) 453-7974 or [craftburgerco.com](http://craftburgerco.com).

## [Encinitas](#)

**Union Kitchen & Tap's** Union Burger is a true beauty, with a generous beef patty, a smoky/rich tomato jam and slab of melted white cheddar cheese on a toasted brioche bun. The burger is with optional fried egg, which isn't the least bit necessary, but still a yummy addition. 1108 S. Coast Highway. (760) 230-2337 or [localunion101.com](http://localunion101.com). **Encinitas Ale House's** half-pound burgers mix Angus, Kobe and Wagyu beef and can be ordered in a 2-for-1 special on Tuesdays. 1044 S. Coast Highway. 760 943-7180. [encinitasalehouse.com](http://encinitasalehouse.com).

## Solana Beach

**Pillbox Tavern** has a cool beach-bar vibe, friendly service and a new burger special each month (May's specialty was a farmer burger with roasted broccoli, cauliflower and corn. On Monday nights, get the house burger and a beer for \$12. 117 W. Plaza St. (858) 436-7016 or [pillboxtavern.com](http://pillboxtavern.com).