

The Corner Mercantile & Eatery

Exploring the World One Dinner at a Time



In the heart of La Jolla Shores, a cozy neighborhood café is serving up more than just food—it's offering its guests a passport to global flavor every Wednesday night. The Corner Mercantile & Eatery, owned and operated by Lisa Kennedy, has become a beloved destination for locals seeking something special, something that brings people together through culture, cuisine, and connection.

Lisa Kennedy's journey to create The Corner began with her desire to build a space that felt like home. A longtime La Jolla resident with a background in hospitality and event planning, Lisa imagined a welcoming eatery that would serve fresh, comforting meals and foster a sense of community. Today, The Corner offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily, with an emphasis on quality ingredients, a relaxed atmosphere, and thoughtful service.

But it's the Wednesday evening "Meals from Around the World" dinners that have truly made The Corner stand out.

Every week, Lisa and her team transport guests to a different country through a thoughtfully designed three-course meal. These dinners are far more than themed nights—they're full culinary experiences, complete with regional recipes, cultural touches, and a spirit of adventure that keeps guests returning again and again.

Chef Omar, who works closely with Lisa to craft each international menu, dives into the traditions and flavors of the selected country, often pulling from authentic ingredients and preparation methods. One week, diners might enjoy a rich and savory Hungarian goulash, followed by a delicate apple strudel for dessert. The next is a colorful spread of Thai larb, green curry with jasmine rice, and mango sticky rice. Other weeks have featured flavors from Argentina, Morocco, Korea, and even the islands of the South Pacific.

Each meal includes a starter, main course, and dessert, giving guests a true sense of the culinary identity of the featured country. The presentation is elegant but approachable, and the ambiance in the café on these evenings becomes electric—full of chatter, laughter, and curious conversation about the flavors on each plate.





The popularity of the dinners has grown steadily, thanks to word of mouth and the natural curiosity of locals looking for something new. While many guests are regulars who mark their calendars weekly, newcomers are always warmly welcomed and quickly find themselves swept up in the friendly, exploratory atmosphere.

There's something about these international dinners that goes beyond just good food. It's about connection—between people, between cultures, and between stories. Lisa has often said that food is a universal language, and these dinners prove her right every week. Guests come not just to eat, but to learn, to try something unfamiliar, and to share in a communal experience that's increasingly rare in the digital age.

The setting itself enhances the experience. The Corner is intimate and inviting, with indoor & outdoor seating and a layout that encourages conversation between tables. On Wednesday nights, the décor sometimes shifts to reflect the region being explored—perhaps a few Moroccan lanterns one week or vibrant Italian tablecloths the next—always subtle, but enough to spark a smile.

Reservations for the international dinners are required, as seats tend to fill up quickly. For many, the surprise of discovering a new region's cuisine is part of the fun—and a reason to return often.

In addition to the weekly international dinners, The Corner

also hosts seasonal pop-up events throughout the year. These include artisan food and wine tastings, food and wine tastings and community gatherings that bring together La Jolla, and community gatherings that bring together La Jolla residents and visitors alike in celebration of food and friendship.

As The Corner Mercantile & Eatery continues to grow in reputation and community affection, its mission remains grounded in Lisa Kennedy's original vision: to serve delicious food that brings people together.

“

The “Meals from Around the World” dinners are a reflection of that vision—a way to travel without leaving town, explore cultures through flavor, and share a meal that becomes a memory.

”

For those looking to experience something truly special in La Jolla, a Wednesday night at The Corner promises more than dinner—it offers a taste of the world. [1](#)

