

## DINE & DRINK



Puesto changed the color of its tortillas to match the Valentine's Day love aesthetic. **MANDIE GELLER**

# 20 ROMANTIC DINING OPTIONS

From prix fixe menu options to specials, restaurants across the county are serving up the perfect meals for Valentine's Day

By Maura Fox

Couples planning a romantic evening on Valentine's Day have plenty of dining options in San Diego, with dozens of restaurants offering specials to commemorate the day of love.

**Adelaide at L'Auberge, Del Mar:** Enjoy views of the ocean with dinner on Feb. 14, with menu options that will include steak tartar, scallops, ribeye and almond milk sorbet for dessert. The cost is \$125 per person, with dinner starting at 5 p.m. 1540 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar. (858) 793-6467. [laubergedelmar.com/dining/adelaide](http://laubergedelmar.com/dining/adelaide)

**Ambrogio by Acquerello, La Jolla:** On Feb. 13 and 14, try an eight-course tasting menu for \$199 per person or the vegetarian tasting menu for \$179, which can be made vegan upon request. Menu highlights include an omlette surprise

and filet mignon.. A box of artisan truffle chocolates is included. 7556 Fay Ave., La Jolla. (858) 412-3432. [ambrogiobyacquerello.com](http://ambrogiobyacquerello.com)

**Animae, Downtown:** Diners looking for romance can enjoy a four-course meal at Animae. Beet salad, jumbo shrimp, roasted oysters and lemongrass chicken are just some of the menu's offerings, with a calamansi mousse or chocolate cremeux for dessert. Dinner is from 5 to 9:30 p.m. at \$155 per adult with an optional wine pairing for \$85. 969 Pacific Highway, San Diego. (619) 432-1225. [nimaesd.com](http://nimaesd.com)

**Bleu Bohème, Kensington:** This French restaurant will have a three-course prix fixe menu from 4 to 8 p.m. on Valentine's Day. Highlights include wild mushroom soup, Faroe Island salmon and a flourless chocolate cake. The Ma Cherie cocktail, made from cherry-infused brandy



The beets and strawberry dish from Herb & Wood in Little Italy. **JAMES TRAN**

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with bourbon and port wine and topped with vanilla creme, will also be available for \$18. Dinner is \$95 per person. 4090 Adams Ave., San Diego. (619) 255-4167. [bleuboheme.com](http://bleuboheme.com)

**Books & Records, Bankers Hill:** Lovers of literature will be swept away with this three-course dinner with live music inspired by “Shakespeare in Love.” The \$75 per person menu features a pan-seared halibut and blackberry tart. 5 to 9 p.m. on Valentine’s Day. 2202 Fourth Ave., San Diego. (619) 795-1000. [booksandrecordsbar.com](http://booksandrecordsbar.com)

**Civico 1845, Little Italy:** Bring your dog to dinner at Civico 1845. Along with its menu for couples, including short rib ragu or a vegan wild mushroom ragu, dogs can also enjoy options like lentil meatballs or turkey meatballs, carrots and green beans. There will also be a photo booth so diners can commemorate the occasion with their pup. 1845 India St., San Diego. (619) 431-5990. [civico1845.com](http://civico1845.com)

**El Sueño, Old Town:** There will be a four-course dinner on Feb. 14, including items from Huastecan cuisine, like an ahi tostada, stuffed lobster tail and a churro cheesecake. The cost is \$119 for two. There will also be a Valentine’s Day a la carte menu. 2836 Juan St., San Diego. (619) 510-9813. [elsuenosd.com](http://elsuenosd.com)

**Herb & Wood, Little Italy:** Feast on Italian dishes this Valentine’s Day, with menu highlights such as beets and strawberry, mushroom risotto, plus dessert options like chocolate lava cake and a winter citrus tart. Dinner is from 5 to 9 p.m. for \$125 per adult. Add a wine pairing for \$68. 2210 Kettner Blvd., San Diego. (619) 955-8495. [herbandwood.com](http://herbandwood.com)

**Jacumba Hot Springs Hotel, Jacumba:** On Feb. 14, lovers staying at the East County resort can enjoy a prix fixe dinner menu. Starters include Baja tomato soup or roasted beets and carrots and main course options are seabass, Koji steak, a bone-in pork chop or portobello mushroom. Top off the meal with dessert — Devil’s food



The Valentine’s Day dessert selections at Anima in downtown San Diego. JAMES TRAN

cake and strawberry shortcake crumble are on the menu. 44500 Old Highway 80, Jacumba. (619) 766-4333. [jacumba.com](http://jacumba.com)

**Jeune et Jolie, Carlsbad:** There will be a five-course prix fixe menu with wine and cocktail pairing options at this restaurant, where the pink aesthetic perfectly matches the Valentine’s Day vibe. Menu items include fresh seafood selections and a partridge dish. 2659 State St., Suite 102, Carlsbad. (760) 637-5266. [jeune-jolie.com](http://jeune-jolie.com)

**Lionfish, Gaslamp Quarter:** Diners on Feb. 14 can look forward to a lobster dinner at Lionfish, complete with a grilled Maine lobster, ricotta agnolotti with miso vodka sauce and fried sage, plus two glasses of Veuve Clicquot Champagne as a cost of \$110 for two. 435 Fifth Ave., San Diego. (619) 738-7200. [lionfishsd.com](http://lionfishsd.com)

**Little Frenchie, Coronado:** The three-course prix fixe menu at Little Frenchie includes whole Maine lobster, escargot and opera cake. Diners can dine for \$120 per person, with an optional wine pairing, on Valentine’s Day.

1166 Orange Ave., Coronado. (619) 675-0041. [littlefrenchiesd.com](http://littlefrenchiesd.com)

**Lumi, Gaslamp Quarter:** This restaurant and rooftop bar has Valentine’s Day written all over it, with cozy fire pits, cocktails and locally sourced Nikkei cuisine, which is a combination of Japanese and Peruvian food. Lumi will also be offering heart-shaped pizzas from Feb. 9 to 14. 366 Fifth Ave., San Diego. (619) 329-5864. [lumirooftop.com](http://lumirooftop.com)

**Paradisaea, Bird Rock:** Menu items on this three-course prix fixe menu include roasted heirloom chicken and a chocolate tart. Women dining in will be given a fresh Hawaiian lei upon arrival. The price will be \$130 per person. 5680 La Jolla Blvd., San Diego. (858) 255-8011. [paradisaea.com](http://paradisaea.com)

**Puesto, multiple locations:** Puesto is doing something different for Valentine’s Day, turning its classic tortillas red with vegetable juice to mark the holiday. Taco options include short rib quesabirria, Baja fish and pozole. Enjoy the meal with a Serrano margarita or pink lemon drop cocktail,

plus handmade dessert options such as strawberries with cream. [eatpuesto.com](http://eatpuesto.com)

**RustiCucina, Hillcrest:** Guests can enjoy a prix fixe menu and Valentine’s Day specials, such as lobster lasagna and a customizable pasta menu with a tableside Carbonara cheese wheel. The prix fixe menu starts at \$59 per person. 3797 Park Blvd., San Diego. (619) 310-5291. [rusticucina.com](http://rusticucina.com)

**Temaki Bar, Encinitas:** There will be an eight-piece nigiri platter for Valentine’s Day dinner, plus options like salmon with honey mustard miso and a surf and turf set featuring beef tataki, king crab, truffle butter and chives. The meal is \$60 and available on Feb. 14. 575 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas. (760) 704-8888. [temakibarsushi.com](http://temakibarsushi.com)

**The Presley, Liberty Station:** The menu here includes calamari and shishitos, liberty greens salad, shrimp scampi pasta and horseradish-crusted salmon. End the evening with dessert options of chocolate budino or bread pudding. 2855 Perry

Road, San Diego. (619) 877-1800. [thepresleysd.com](http://thepresleysd.com)

**URBANA Mexican Gastronomy and Mixology, Del Mar:** For \$50 per person, Valentine’s Day diners can enjoy a three-course prix fixe meal, with dishes that include shrimp ceviche and butter fish ‘a la diablo. For dessert, decide between flan or a bread pudding made with crispy bacon. Add a bottle of champagne to the meal for \$40. Skydeck, 12841 El Camino Real, Del Mar. (858) 925-7236. [urbanadelmar.com](http://urbanadelmar.com)

**Vessel Restaurant, Point Loma:** There will be several Valentine’s Day dining options at Vessel Restaurant + Bar, including the “shareable sweetheart” menu focused on dishes that couples can share for \$130 per couple. A prix fixe menu will include options like roasted beet salad and a seafood trio ravioli, priced at \$150 per couple. The restaurant will also have an a la carte menu. 1551 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego. (619) 819-8195. [resortkonakai.com/shelter-island-restaurant](http://resortkonakai.com/shelter-island-restaurant)

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