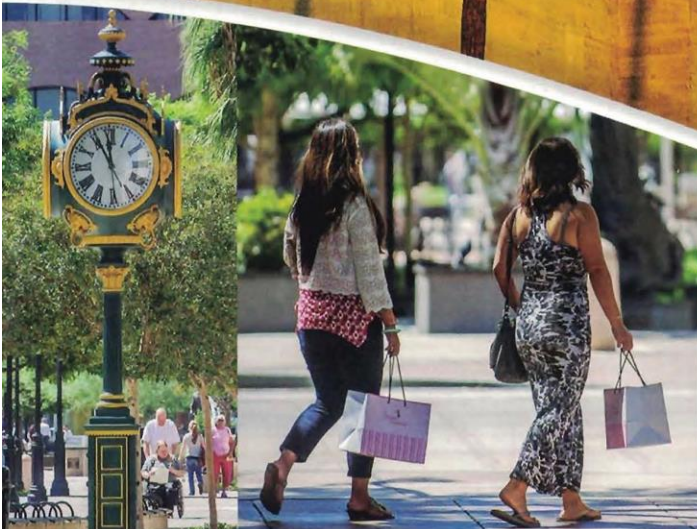




THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE
BEST OF
INLAND
EMPIRE
 2017
 22ND ANNUAL READERS' CHOICE



SEPTEMBER 10, 2017
PRESSENERPRISE.COM/BEST

HOMETOWN FAVORITES • FOOD & DRINK • SHOPPING & SERVICES • PLACES TO GO + DO • HOME & GARDEN

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE



food & drink

opened in 1998 and the newest is the downtown Riverside location, which opened in January 2017, along with Romano's Concert Lounge, which is located upstairs, over the restaurant. The menu at Romano's offers authentic Italian favorites for all ages and tastes: pasta, chicken, veal, and seafood dishes as well as the Chicago's Famous Stuffed Pizza menu which features an extensive stuffed, thin crust and gourmet pizza selection. These thick pizzas can be stuffed with your choice from a variety of Italian meats like pepperoni, sausage, salami and capicola, as well as vegetables like olives, artichoke heart, bell peppers and mushrooms. Romano's takes pride in being a "scratch house," making all sauces, soups salad dressings and bread fresh and in-house daily. Owner Gary Romano is a Chicago native and successful Inland area restaurateur whose company regularly donates meals to varsity sports teams at local high schools. Happy hour is Monday through Friday from 3-6 p.m. and 9 p.m. - closing.

BEST HAPPY HOUR

- 2. PRESIDENTIAL LOUNGE**
3649 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside
951.784.0300
- 3. ANCHOS SOUTHWEST GRILL & BAR**
10773 Hole Ave., Riverside
951.352.0240

BEST ITALIAN FOOD

- 2. RUSTICO RISTORANTE & PIZZERIA**
29940 Hunter Road, Ste. 102, Murrieta
951.698.5151
- 3. MARIO'S PLACE**
3646 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside
951.684.7755

BEST PIZZA

- 2. BELLA TRATTORIA ITALIAN BISTRO**
3649 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside
951.784.0300
- 3. STADIUM PIZZA**
Multiple locations

BEST SPORTS BAR

- 2. APPLEBEE'S**
Multiple locations
- 3. DUKE'S BAR & GRILL**
3221 Iowa Ave., Riverside
951.248.1143

BEST MEXICAN FOOD

- 1. EL UNICO**
243 S. Main St., Lake Elsinore, 92530
951.674.8583
- Whether you are in the mood for tacos, enchi-



↑ PRESIDENTIAL LOUNGE

ladas or a burrito, these favorite Mexican food classics and more are on the menu at El Unico, a family-friendly restaurant located near the lake and city park in Lake Elsinore. Other favorites include chicken tortilla soup, the taco special, the carne asada burrito and the tortas. Feel free to dine on the casual outside patio (there is only outdoor seating) or if you are in a hurry, take your meal or snack to go and enjoy the food at home. El Unico is open seven days a week for a Mexican breakfast, lunch or dinner.

- 2. ANCHOS SOUTHWEST GRILL & BAR**
10773 Hole Ave., Riverside
951.352.0240
- 3. LOS VAQUERO'S MEXICAN GRILL**
3909 W Florida Ave., Hemet
951.766.1192

BEST MICROBREWERY

- 1. SONS OF LIBERTY ALEWORKS**
1780 Town & Country Drive, Ste. 101
Norco, 92860
951.278.1760
solaleworks.com

If you love America — and beer — Sons of Liberty Aleworks in Norco holds plenty of appeal. Inside, you're transported to a quaint pub, with walls decorated with the "Don't Tread on

Me" and Marine Corps flags to name a few and weapons including a sword and musket. The tap handles are in the shape of antique guns, and beers are often named after historical figures. George Washington may not have slept here but don't sleep on the George Washington chocolate porter. And if you're trying the 10-taster flight, be sure to bring a friend or two.

- 2. KARL STRAUSS BREWING CO**
40868 Winchester Road, Temecula
951.225.7960
- 3. WICKS BREWING CO LLC**
11620 Sterling Ave., Riverside
951.689.2739

BEST SANDWICH SHOP

- 1. JERSEY MIKE'S SUBS**
Multiple locations
Jerseymikes.com

Freshly grilled and sliced meats are part of the winning strategy for Jersey Mike's, which offers cold subs, hot subs and wraps. Jersey Mike's is a franchised business that started in 1956 as a single store called Mike's Subs in the seaside town of Point Pleasant, New Jersey. The subs include a variety of meats like chicken, ham, turkey, salami and steak, plus the goodies that make a sandwich unique and fulfilling: onions, lettuce, tomato, cheese and oil and vinegar.