

Valentine's date ideas for every budget + Cold-weather hikes

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Hot Plates

Your monthly serving of the latest restaurant openings, closings, and rumors in San Diego

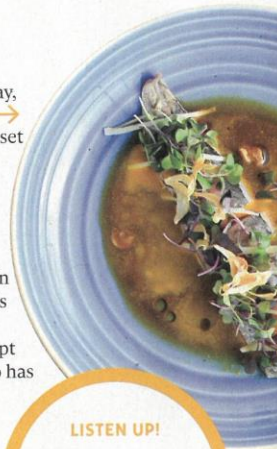
by Marie Tutko

1 GASLAMP BREAKFAST COMPANY debuted on Sixth and J, with a menu similar to what's being served at its popular sister restaurant, North Park Breakfast Company: beet lattes, mashed potato waffles with cheese sauce, churro French toast, and coffee in oversize mugs. It's the 16th restaurant for Johan Engman, who owns the Breakfast Republic chain and El Jardín Cantina in Liberty Station. Engman is also converting the Hillcrest location of Fig Tree Cafe into a Breakfast Republic.

2 Big news for South Bay: Craft brewer **NOVO BRAZIL** expanded from Eastlake and opened its second location in Otay Ranch. The space is huge—12,000 square feet—and it's packed with artwork, games, TVs, and a restaurant serving Brazilian fare like feijoada (bean and pork stew).

3 Davin Waite of Wrench & Rodent Seabasstropub fame opened **THE PLOT**, a plant-based restaurant that has vegan sushi options on the menu, in South Oceanside.

4 After a delay, **LUMI BY AKIRA BACK** is set for a February opening on the corner of Fifth and J in the Grand Pacific Hotel building in the Gaslamp. It's a modern Japanese concept from Back, who has two Michelin stars and successful restaurants in Las Vegas (Kumi in Mandalay Bay and Yellowtail in the Bellagio).



LISTEN UP!

For more Hot Plates, tune in to **Happy Half Hour**, our food and drink podcast, every week: sdmag.com/hhh

5 The new year also started off with a few restaurant closures: Chef DJ Tangalin closed **GAYA GAYA**, his modern Filipino restaurant in Miramar; the La Jolla location of **DONOVAN'S STEAK & CHOP HOUSE** closed at the end of 2019; and **MCCORMICK & SCHMICK'S**, a steak and seafood restaurant inside the Omni Hotel, closed without warning on New Year's Day.