

FOOD & WINE

Picking up good vibrations at the new Chandler's at Cape Rey

taste of wine



frank mangio

Hospitality and world class cuisine have found a new home in the beautifully refreshed Chandler's in the Cape Rey Resort along the Carlsbad beachfront. The new mantra at Chandler's is "local, coastal and unexpected," words to live by with the new cuisine team led by Culinary Director Teri Mcillwain. This breath of freshness began a year or so ago.

Now it's in the eyes of all who welcome you to Cape Rey and Chandler's.

Mcillwain is fun to be around. She embraces the local Carlsbad community.



The new mantra at Chandler's is "local, coastal and unexpected," words to live by with the new cuisine team led by Culinary Director Teri Mcillwain. Photos by Frank Mangio



Chandler's of Carlsbad has its Whiskey brined Jidori chicken as its signature menu feature, with cherizo beans, white peach, local greens and caramelized cipollini onion. Fresh fruit opened the meal.

"I love Carlsbad," she enthusiastically declared. "It's our hometown and we want to serve it. My great mission is to have our diners feel that they are coming to my home for a meal. Over time

we have lightened and freshened up the menu and expanded the wine and craft beer list.

"We placed an Alaskan King

TURN TO TASTE OF WINE ON B15

A Lick the Plate Coaster adventure to the Carnitas Snack Shack Embarcadero



lick the plate

david boylan

As easy as it is to get stuck in our North County coastal bubble, it's fun to hop on a train and explore dining and drinking options in downtown San Diego for an evening.

And yes, with the combo Coaster/Amtrak ticket happening, a round-trip is very doable with plenty of time between trains to bop around and have a leisurely

meal.

I suggest catching the 3:49 p.m. Coaster southbound out of Encinitas or Oceanside, Carlsbad Village, Carlsbad Poinsettia or Solana Beach all departing within 30 minutes of that time. That will have you downtown at 4:35 p.m. and give you plenty of time to catch a happy hour before dinner.

If you want to make it a quick trip there is a 7:15 p.m. heading north but my suggestion is to make it a full evening and go at a slower pace and then catch the 8:59 p.m. Amtrak northbound as they accept Coaster tickets.

Friday nights offer much more frequency going both ways so check the



Embarcadero Snack Shack bartenders from left: Billy and Gareth serving cocktails with a fabulous view. Photo by David Boylan

a beer or two on the way downtown.

That said, I did see a lot of folks with coffee mugs on my last ride — just saying.

Upon arriving downtown at the Santa Fe station, I like to head over to one of San Diego's oldest bars The Waterfront on Kettner Boulevard for a fun happy hour beer with downtown office workers.

It's a fun way to mix up some old school into your evening before heading over to the brand spanking new Carnitas Snack Shack on the water at the Embarcadero.

This is all within walking distance and it sure is a nice place to be taking a stroll.

Just a word of warning to those of you who have been to the original Snack Shack in North Park and reveled in its funky charm, the Embarcadero location is a whole different animal so to speak. While the North Park location feels like you are eating in a friend's backyard somewhere in the Midwest, the new location is sleek and modern with primarily outdoor seating.

It has a crafty cocktail program headed up by bar manager Mai Phom that features a rotating selec-

TURN TO LICK THE PLATE ON B15

Coaster schedule for details.

One of the pleasures of taking the Coaster downtown has always been the ability to bring your alcoholic beverage of choice on the train and enjoy it on the scenic trip.

That all changed recently as they have banned booze from the Coaster, which is a big bummer. Why not just ban it after a certain time?

I don't see late afternoon pre-dinner folks getting out of control with

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