

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

san diego

HOTELS RESTAURANTS ATTRACTIONS BEACHES SHOPPING CULTURE SPORTS NIGHTLIFE CASINOS MUSEUMS

GASLAMP QUARTER

A great mix of the old and new provides just the right balance for this downtown spot's dazzling combination of dining, entertainment and partying.



1 CROCE'S

Croce's serves as a tribute to the late singer Jim Croce by his widow, Ingrid. Opened in 1985, Croce's is the longest-running restaurant in the Gaslamp area. The idea for Croce's initially surfaced in 1973, when Ingrid and Jim were searching the Gaslamp for a late-night meal.

"It was a week before Jim died and we couldn't find anything," Ingrid said. "We joked that maybe one day we could open a place. So one day in 1985, a friend called and said that I should come down and take a look at this spot. And, when I did, I realized that this was where Jim and I came that night. It just seemed like the perfect place."

Croce's specializes in American cuisine, with seafood dishes among the best. Ingrid recommends the Szechwan yellow fin tuna sashimi as an appetizer. For dinner, the New Zealand sea bass or the grilled swordfish are specialties. The double-thick grilled pork chops are excellent, too. Croce's features live jazz each night and R&B on Fridays and Saturdays.
802 Fifth Ave., (619) 233-4355, www.croces.com.

2 SAN DIEGO MARRIOTT GASLAMP QUARTER

From top to bottom, the Marriott offers visitors an appealing mix of amenities. The 306-room hotel is one of the newest luxury hotels in downtown San Diego. On the ground floor, the trendy Soleil restaurant is among the highlights. Guests can enjoy good food and drinks while sit-

ting in the restaurant or outside in sidewalk seats situated perfectly for watching the passing crowds and traffic heading to Petco Park or other nearby venues. On the roof, Altitude tops the competition among watering holes. The breathtaking spread on the 22nd floor of the hotel delivers views of the playing field inside Petco and the surrounding San Diego area. "At Altitude, the sky's the limit," said Reggie Parks, the Marriott's general manager of food and beverage operations. Hotel rates start at \$189.
660 K St., (619) 696-0234, www.marriott.com.

3 HOTEL SOLAMAR

Opened in April, Hotel Solamar is a luxurious 235-room, 10-story red brick hotel conveniently situated in East Village and next to the Gaslamp district. Solamar features a fourth-floor rooftop pool deck, where guests can enjoy a tropical atmosphere with lighted palm trees, private cabanas, fire pits and Jbar, a colorful lounge accented with bright hues of blue, purple and red. Guest rooms — most notably the Spa Kings and Hospitality Suites — open onto the fourth-floor deck. At Jsix Restaurant, adjacent to the hotel, California cuisine reigns supreme. Introductory hotel rates start at \$179.
435 Sixth Ave., (619) 531-8740, www.hotelsolamar.com.

4 THE FIELD

Irish pubs don't get much better than this one. Maybe it's because every piece of this comfortable spot was shipped to San Diego from Ireland. "I wanted to bring something from Ireland," said Daniel Drayne, owner of the pub and a native of Tyrone, Ireland, about 40 miles north of Belfast. "I wanted something to represent a field on a farmyard." Simple as that. Farming equipment and Irish paraphernalia accent the décor of this watering hole as much as the enthusiastic patrons sipping Guinness, Harps, Bushmills and Jamesons.
544 Fifth Ave., (619) 232-9840, www.thefield.com.

5 DESIGNER MILLINERY

There's nothing like a horse race to draw out the hat-wearing side of a woman. And that's good news for Diana Cavagnaro, owner of Designer Millinery, an upscale hat-making business in the Gaslamp. Opening day at Del Mar Racetrack is "one of the biggest fashion days of the year," Cavagnaro said. Operating out of a loft, she designs bucket brims, fedoras, sinamays, pillboxes, cords, cocktails and "tie hats," which she makes by tying men's ties together for different looks. "I combine vintage with the new," Cavagnaro said. "And, I love what I do." So do many others. Cavagnaro loves to volunteer and



Croce's, above, serves as a tribute to the late Jim Croce, pictured on an album cover on the piano; Altitude, left, offers visitors a perch atop the San Diego Marriott Gaslamp Quarter; a model, top right, dons one of milliner Diana Cavagnaro's creations.

donates her work to people with cancer throughout the San Diego area. She also founded the annual Easter Bonnet Parade and Hat Contest, which benefits the pediatric hematology/oncology center at UC San Diego Hospital. Cavagnaro's services are available by appointment only.

311 Fourth Ave., Suite 417, (619) 239-4287, www.aheadproductions.com.

6 SAN DIEGO HARDWARE

A visit to this Gaslamp fixture is like taking a trip back in time. The wood floors and the good old-fashioned customer service are two reminders of hardware stores of yesteryear. You can also sense it in the down-home demeanor of co-owner Rip Fleming. And it probably has figured in how this business, the oldest in the Gaslamp, has persevered for more than 100 years.

Wadham Gazlay, son of Fred Gazlay, one of the four founders, is one of the names most associated with the store. Wadham Gazlay spent more than 70 years with the company and was a great-great uncle to Bill Haynesworth, who is co-owner of the store with Fleming.

840 Fifth Ave., (619) 232-7123, www.sandiego-hardware.com.

7 WILLIAM HEATH DAVIS HOUSE

The Davis House is the oldest wooden building in San Diego. Its considerable history includes legendary stories about its original owner, William Heath Davis, and Alonzo Horton, who is generally credited as the founder of the city. The house was occupied by residents until 1981 despite its lack of modern amenities such as electricity. In 1984 it was moved to its current loca-

tion and completely renovated. Tours are available six days a week.

410 Island Ave., (619) 233-4692, www.gaslamp-quarter.org.

8 MISTER TIKI MAI TAI LOUNGE

Pacific cuisine is the specialty of this popular restaurant-lounge. Crispy crab wontons, cashew-crusted chicken chow mein and crushed pineapple pork Pago Pago are among the dishes offered. But Mister Tiki's might be best known for its tasty, and potent, tiki drinks, including the Mondo Martiki, a concoction for four or more with spiced rum and all the juices in "da house" shaken tableside and served in a giant "martiki glass." Dinner reservations are recommended.

801 Fifth Ave., (619) 233-1183, cohnrestaurants.com.

— FORREST LEE