

Food Truck Frenzy

Your family guide to San Diego's mobile cuisine scene

The food truck trend is spreading across the country like wildfire, and no doubt you have spotted a truck or two around town, at farmer's markets, in your neighborhood or in your very own front yard. San Diego boasts a great group of fun and innovative food truck owners that bring a totally new "dining out" experience to families.

Family friendly cuisine with Mangia Mangia

www.mangiamangiamobile.com

What could be more kid-friendly than an Italian Lollipop?

"It's meatballs on a stick. Dipped in tempura and fried. An Italian corn dog," says owner Marko Pavlinovic. "People go crazy for it, they love it so much."

Served with Parmigiano cheese and marinara dipping sauce, Italian Lollipops are also great for those just getting warmed up for Pavlinovic's extensive menu of all things deliciously Italian.

"Italian food and Italian culture is all about family," says Pavlinovic. "My food is kid-friendly. We serve food the whole family can enjoy."

Serving all kinds of pasta that kids love and tweaking his menu (Chicken Parmigiana becomes chicken fingers), your picky eater will be happy. Customers even stock up on Fridays so they have meals for the weekend.

Pavlinovic came to America from Italy just 11 years ago "to follow the dream."

"It's only in the United States that a guy like me can come and open a food truck, and next thing you know I'm on the cooking channel," Pavlinovic says.

What does he love about his business?

"My customers. When I drive on the freeway and people honk at me because they recognize the Mangia Mangia."

Mangia? Italian for "So, eat!"



To your health with Not So Fast

www.notsfastfoodtruck.com

"Our food philosophy is simple," says co-owner Bob Montgomery. "Food can either be the best form of medicine or the worst type of poison."

Montgomery and partner June Sinclair are committed to sharing the wisdom that you should know what you're putting into your body.

"Know your sources. Keep it local, sustainable and organic," says Montgomery. "The way it was in the beginning of time."

As a bonus, Not So Fast is perfect for families with dietary restrictions.

"We actually have a lot of families dine with us because



we are a gluten-free truck and we can accommodate almost any food allergy," explains Montgomery.

Everything served is locally sourced and made from scratch with a "dash of love." Montgomery and Sinclair are just as passionate about their customers as they are about their food.

"There is no other feeling in the world like seeing a regular coming up to your truck," Montgomery says. "It's a mixture of excitement, comfort, happiness and stomach butterflies all at once!"

Enjoying your experience with Super Q

www.superqfoodtruck.com

With flashy super hero-themed graphics, the Kaminski family's Super Q truck is sure to get kids excited about "the best hickory smoked BBQ this side of the Mississippi!"

On top of the great food, an enjoyable experience is Super Q's specialty.

"Guests don't mind waiting in line. They get to smell the food cooking, check out what other guests are eating, comment on how yummy it looks and adjust what they are going to get based upon what someone else ordered," says co-owner Barbara Merkley.

Three generations of Kaminskis are behind two trucks (Super Q and Super Q 2: The Sequel) and a Poway restaurant, Kaminski's Sports Lounge. Decades-old family recipes are sure to put a smile on everyone's face. I even spotted a vegetarian entrée on their menu.

Their most popular sandwiches are the Super Q Melts, featuring Three Cheese Mac-n-Cheese and a choice of BBQ pulled pork, chicken or Texas beef brisket stuffed between two delicious slices of grilled sourdough bread. A concoction fit for a kid's fantasy!

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"The thing I [hear] the most from families... 'I've got the pickiest kids in the world and they love your food and we can't wait to come back.'" —Chicho Casillas, owner of Chubby's food truck. Specializing in SoCal comfort food.
www.chubbysfoodtruck.com



Be transported with God Save the Cuisine

www.godsavethecuisine.com

Hailing from England, brothers Kevin and David Keylock "use the best ingredients possible [local, sustainable, organic] to offer our customers great tasting British-influenced street eats at an affordable price."

Customers can borrow a blanket from the truck and enjoy their Fish and Chips Tacos while listening to music by U.K. artists. The atmosphere is unique and the British-themed truck is great fun for families.

"What we love about our customers is the stories they tell us about their England trips, and the expats we get to meet," says Kevin. "We especially love it when our loyal customers go on trips to England and bring us back British chocolate."

Visit their website for mouth-watering photos of traditional British family Sunday dinners. Cheers!

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El Rey del Mar
"King of the Sea"

Ocean View Blvd. & 30th St.
www.facebook.com/elreydelmarsd

For an authentic Mexican seafood experience, keep it real at the El Rey del Mar food truck. Not all "Mariscos" trucks are alike, and you will notice the difference in taste and quality immediately. While other trucks often use store-bought juices as the base for their dishes, this family-run operation prepares their own, which provides a unique color and texture to many of their items.

With two generations working together to prepare and serve traditional "seafood with a Mexican flavor," this truck understands the food and family connection. It's also a fun cultural encounter where you can practice your Español.

"Our favorite day on the job is Sunday because we get to see entire families eating at our truck!" – King of the Sea crew.

Design your own with Meltdown Food Truck

www.meltdownfoodtruck.com

"We design our menu for all ages and all taste buds," says co-owner of Meltdown, Scott Romero. "If it's not on our menu, we love for our guests to make something up!"

Scott and Pam Romero bring their immense experience and talent to the food truck scene to create mouth-watering melts.

"Our food philosophy is fresh, flavorful and fast! We don't do it if all three aren't working together," says Scott.

Meltdown uses "amazing meats, great breads, awesome cheeses and flavors that come from across the country," to think up creations that are definitely not your mom's grilled cheese.

What are you waiting for? "Get melted!" ♦

Laura Pardo writes from South Park.

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