

FOOD & DRINK

guide

he's got a taste for the truly unique. Lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat. and Sun. *SoCo Collection*, 3321 Hyland Ave., Ste. F, Costa Mesa, 949.500.5561, arcrestaurant.com \$\$

Memphis Soul Cafe 🍷 Southern-style specialties are the way to go here, with gumbo topping the list. It's a hip, young crowd, just the way we like it, and the food is down-home amazing. Evening adventures at Memphis often begin with live music or a sweet DJ set, and breakfast satisfies early risers with barbecued shrimp and grits. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, brunch Sat. and Sun. 2920 Bristol St., Costa Mesa, 714.432.7685, memphiscafe.com \$\$\$

Mesa 🍷 With a juicy fresh-squeezed cocktail menu, carefully considered wine list and seasonally inspired fare, Mesa really has it all. The Wednesday night showcase of sultry jazz will help take the edge off midweek blues. Dinner Tue.-Sat. *The Camp*, 725 Baker St., Costa Mesa, 714.557.6700, mesacostamesa.com \$\$

Old Vine Cafe This quaint, casual corner of the world dishes out high-quality cuisine and wine to its loyal customers, and credit must go to chef-owner Mark McDonald for that. The culinarian uses seasonal products and regional ingredients in the spot's many creative menus, and the Indonesian curry shrimp is tantalizing our taste buds. Shellfish is sauteed in soju and finished with a lemongrass curry sauce. The wine program is also a highlight (so pair that shrimp with the Mönchhof Mosel Slate Riesling). Breakfast and lunch daily, dinner Tue.-Sat. *The Camp*, 2937 Bristol St., Ste. A-102, Costa Mesa, 714.545.1411, oldvinecafe.com \$\$\$

Restaurant Marin 🍷 The lady of the house, Marin

Howarth von Blöm (who owns the eatery and neighboring Arc with culinary mastermind and hubby Noah), will tell you to sit in one of the patio's corner booths during the late afternoon and linger over a bottle of wine or cocktails and appetizers—and we agree. We're partial to the 2013 Matrot Volnay, the Pink Lady and the street sandwiches (tomato and burrata, among them), but you really can't go wrong here. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. *SoCo Collection*, 3321 Hyland Ave., Costa Mesa, 949.203.3974, restaurantmarin.com \$\$\$

Social Costa Mesa 🍷 This one's for football fans: Every Sunday during the season, the restaurant is setting up a 100-inch HD projector in the dining room, so you can watch all the action (and cheer on the Rams, natch) while you indulge on brunch bites like the Social Benedict or the fried chicken sandwich. (There's plenty of drinks to quench your thirst too.) Not into the pigskin? Have no fear: Executive Chef Brian Jenzer has an approachable but adventurous menu for you, no matter what you're craving. Score! Dinner Tue.-Sun., brunch Sun. 512 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, 949.642.2425, socialcostamesa.com \$\$

Wild Goose Tavern This place is like a bona fide hunting lodge in the middle of Costa Mesa. But don't worry: It's a hip and oh, so cozy spot through and through. The tavern serves up seasonal beers, beautifully crafted cocktails, single-barrel whiskeys and simple yet refined pub-style fare. So go grub at the Goose! Lunch and dinner daily. 436 E. 17th St., Costa Mesa, 949.722.9453, goosebar.com \$

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