

# Southern California

Editor's picks

## DOWNTOWN L.A. Slip into a speakeasy

Duck through the door marked with a Champagne glass at the back of Cole's restaurant and step into the Varnish. It'll take a few minutes for your eyes—and your modern mind-set—to adjust to the golden-lit, speakeasy-style cocktail lounge serving old-fashioned cocktails with period-perfect ingredients like Aperol and rye. Set aside your usual 21st-century order, lean against the mahogany-paneled bar (no barstools here), and ask for a Bartender's Choice, a drink custom-crafted right down to the appropriate ice, hand-chiseled off a glacial block. 118 E. Sixth St.; 213/622-9999. —ALISSA WALKER



## ANZA-BORREGO Star school in the desert

All the stars align to make night-sky gazing stellar in the desert town of **Borrego Springs** (its recent designation as a Dark Sky Community confirms this). The clincher? Dennis Mammana, an astronomer who won't put you to sleep. This month, he's at Borrego RV Resort—no RV required—teaching **Saturn: Lord of the Rings** (6:30 Apr 4; \$15; [dennismammana.com](http://dennismammana.com)), and leading a celestial camping trip in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (Apr 10–11; \$175, including camping gear, meals, and storytelling). —CHRISTINE CIARMELLO



### SANTA BARBARA

Traffic on State Street a half-block away sounds like distant waves from **Float Luxury Spa**, a welcome new addition to the downtown scene. We love a spa that asks us to pick the music and whether we want chatter or silence during a treatment. Try a 25-minute massage or facial, or stick around for lunch (they'll order for you from local favorite Sojourner Cafe) by the reflecting pool in the spa's private garden. From \$70; [floatluxuryspa.com](http://floatluxuryspa.com) —CAMERON WALKER

### TORRANCE

Okay, so it's not Japan, but a visit to the Miyako Hybrid Hotel's **Spa Relaken** may be as close as you can get. Its early May opening will mark the spa's first location outside Japan. A Japanese-style robe, a cup of tea, and a stroll around the fountains will set the mood before your shiatsu massage, reflexology treatment, or yoga class. For \$45, non-hotel guests can hit the steam room, sauna, and whirlpools, and lounge on the *ganban-yoku* (heated stone beds mined in Kyushu, Japan). Afterward, head to the lobby's Gonpachi restaurant (\$\$\$) for a bento box. [miyakohybridhotel.com](http://miyakohybridhotel.com). —JENNIE NUNN

### SAN DIEGO

What's your water number? At the mod new **Numero Water Boutique** in Little Italy, there are three choices: 29, 51, or 76, referring to the mineral composition of the water bottled around Mt. Fuji, Japan. In the high-design, second-story room with a white leather couch, living tropical wall, and large windows facing India Street, try a free tasting to learn how the waters promote digestion, antiaging, and exercise. Stick around for the Foot Love Special (\$25), a soak in Numero 76 and essential oils, followed by a 20-minute reflexology massage. *Reservations required; numerowater.com* —C.C.

## Don't miss

The new **Hatfield's** restaurant in L.A. gets bonus points for its living wall of succulents, retractable patio roof, and main dining room light fixture that's a 3-D replica of the molecular structure of honey. \$\$\$; [hatfieldsrestaurant.com](http://hatfieldsrestaurant.com)