

## Best Mexican Restaurants: Isabel's Cantina

by Admin on August 13, 2015 in San Diego Restaurants, What to do in San Diego



Start your meal off with a tasty craft cocktail like the  
Blackberry Moscow Mule!

(Image courtesy of Alternative Strategies)

**Try one of the Best Mexican Restaurants in San Diego!**

**Isabel's Cantina** is not your typical cantina. You won't find mariachi music or unlimited chips and salsa, but what you will find is a unique culinary experience that blends Latin and Asian influences at one of the best Mexican restaurants in San Diego!

Isabel's Cantina has been in Pacific Beach for 14 years. The restaurant's catch phrase is "be curious" and it is with curiosity that you may stumble upon this place. From the outside it's

hard to tell it's a restaurant. There's no signage and it's near a residential area.

Find street parking and make your way inside to find a large Buddha statue and a cool décor from Asia. According to the cantina's website "Chef Isabel Cruz brings her culinary Latin heritage front and center, adding to it the Asian influence she absorbed while growing up in Los Angeles."

The **fusion menu** blends ingredients and dishes from both cultures and American food. It's vegetarian-friendly and on the menu it states everything is made "from scratch with love and care." Isabel's Cantina also gets many ingredients from their own farm in Oregon.



Their fusion menu has tasty offerings you won't want to miss like the Chicken Tacos!  
(Image courtesy of Alternative Strategies)

The food did not disappoint. We ordered the Chile Relleno with Soy Chorizo and the Shrimp Diablo.

The Chile Relleno was absolutely delicious and arrived so beautifully plated that it begged to have a photo taken.

The Shrimp Diablo was on the specials menu and was wonderful as well!

You could make it as spicy as you wanted with an extremely hot sauce that came on the side. The shrimp were fresh and flavorful.

For drinks we enjoyed the Blackberry Moscow Mule and their Orange Pineapple Kale Juice which is made fresh in house. We ended the night with Coconut Flan and Chocolate Flourless Cake.

The cantina's claim of making everything with love was evident in what we ordered including the desserts which arrived beautifully plated with the word "cantina" written in raspberry sauce on each one. We highly recommend the Coconut Flan which came with large coconut flakes and was really good.

After looking over their breakfast menu it's clear we need to come back for that. We'll also be back for dinner to try the tacos, ahi wontons and Buddha Bowl.

Definitely check out Isabel's Cantina for an amazing and curiously unique healthy dining experience with friendly staff and outstanding service.

*By: Deanne Goodman*