

North County Scores Stylish and Spirited New Sushi Bar

Thursday, January 9, 2014, by Candice Woo



[Photos: Bradley Schweit <<http://www.bradleyschweit.com/>>]

Now open in Carlsbad is the striking **Blue Ocean**. Designed by local firm **Bells & Whistles** <<http://www.allthebellsandwhistles.com/>> (Sea & Smoke, Starlite) the building is meant to evoke a modernist aquarium; inside, sushi (the owners also run the **Love Boat Sushi** <<http://www.loveboatsushi.com/>> chain) is showcased in an eye-catching space full of textured surfaces and light fixtures fashioned to look like bubbling water and spiky sea urchins.

Overseeing the kitchen is **Andy Halvorsen**, whose most recent post was as sous chef at A.R. Valentien, though he started his cooking career at an Asian restaurant in San Francisco.

Beyond the sushi and specialty rolls, Blue Ocean offers small plates (warm cashew salad, pork belly buns, caramelized eggplant), larger entrees (crispy whole striped bass, honey-lacquered duck breast) and **a selection of yakitori** - skewered meats, seafood and vegetables cooked to order on a custom-made robata grill over binchotan, a clean-burning Japanese charcoal. The full menu is also available at the stylish bar, where there are six taps of craft beer, a nice collection of Japanese whisky and a cocktail list curated by the **Queen-Connor-Ward Collective** <<http://queenconnerward.com/>> (Puesto) that includes a ginger old fashioned and a vodka collins made with lychee and chili.

Blue Ocean should open for lunch in February but for now, operating hours are 4 p.m. to midnight; there are **two happy hours nightly**, from 4 to 6 p.m. and 10 to midnight.



BLUE OCEAN ROBATA & SUSHI BAR
2958 Madison Street,
Carlsbad, California
92008 (760) 434-4959
GIANT MAP

CARLSBAD

BLUE OCEAN

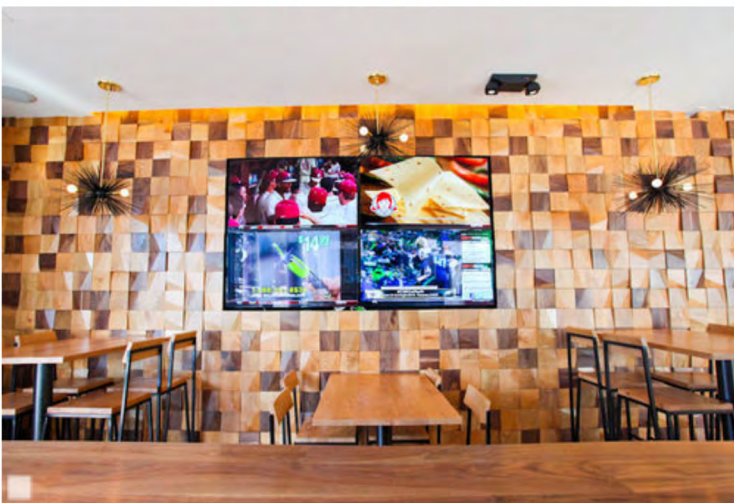
BLUE OCEAN ROBATA & SUSHI BAR

EATER INSIDE

TOP







[Blue Ocean Menu <http://www.scribd.com/doc/197881995/Blue-Ocean-Menu>](http://www.scribd.com/doc/197881995/Blue-Ocean-Menu)