

COAST

MAGAZINE

ORANGE COUNTY'S

BEST

RESTAURANTS

A taco that defies the imagination. Sushi like you've never seen before. Dry-aged steaks that flip the paradigm for Spanish cuisine. Extraordinary pizza. Ten fascinating chefs. These are the 10 most essential restaurants in Orange County right now, and many are on the coast or nearby. They're also merely the tip of the iceberg of the 75 Best Places to Eat for 2016, described at ocregister.com/75best.

TAKE A TASTE
OF OUR CRITIC'S
TOP 10
BY BRAD A. JOHNSON

9. SAPORI RISTORANTE AND PIZZERIA

When Pizzeria Sapori opened last spring, it wasn't just another new pizza parlor. It was the long-awaited extension of chef Sal Maniaci's Sapori Ristorante – and the catalyst to being named the Register's 2015 Restaurant of the Year. Sapori was already one of the region's best Italian restaurants. The off-menu veal chop is incredible. But something magical happened when Sapori installed its new wood-fired pizza oven, which had a wonderful ripple effect on the entire restaurant and staff. Clearly, pizza is the Italian chef's true passion.

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