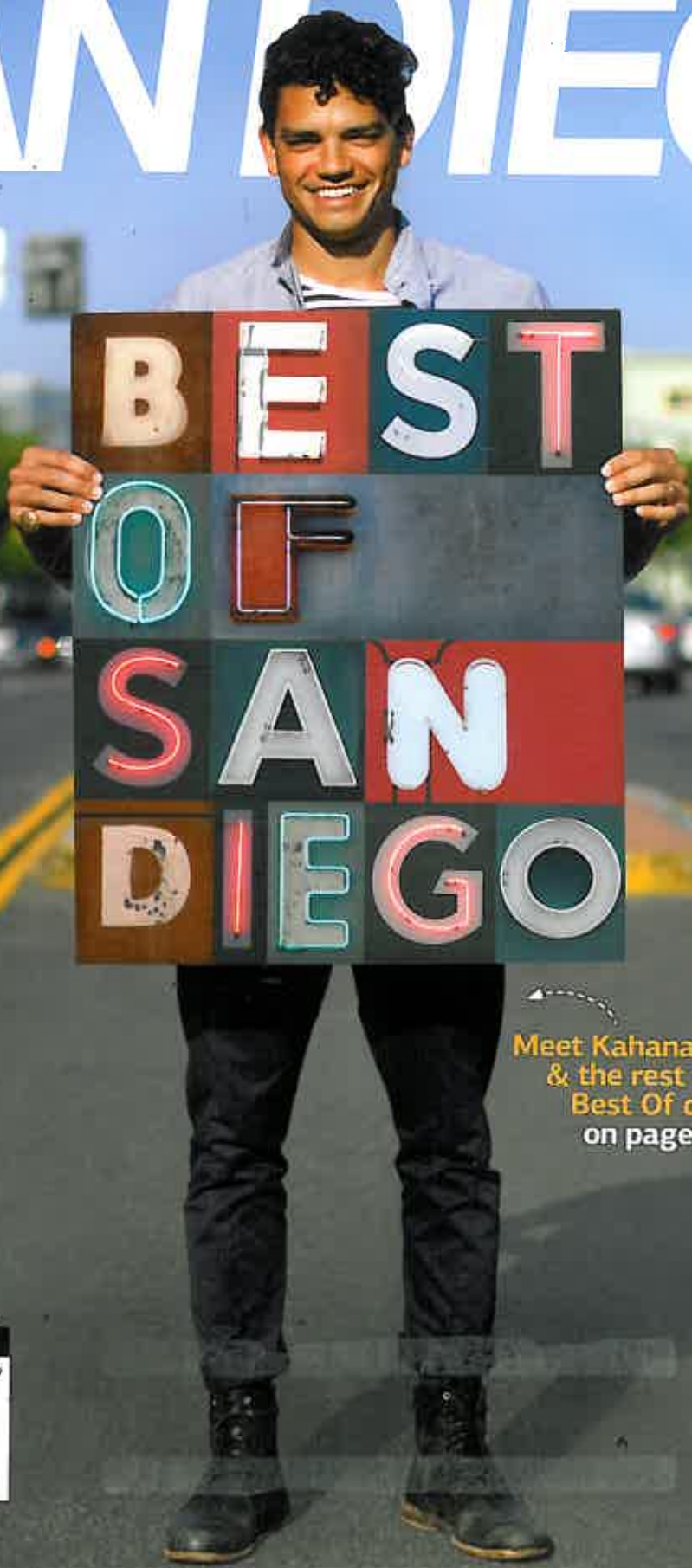


103 things to see, sip, taste & love

SAN DIEGO

MAGAZINE



Meet Kahana Kalama
& the rest of the
Best Of crew
on page 72

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AUGUST 2011

BEST OF SAN DIEGO | HERMAN ATKINS | APERTURE HOUSE

SAN DIEGO MAGAZINE



KID Yoga: Practice on Mission Bay.

BEST OF BALBOA PARK

Balboa Park bloggers Heather Hart and Maren Dougherty lived in museums and performing arts spaces to show that they could “rough it” in the park for 26 days and never get bored. With more than 70,000 preserved reptiles behind the walls of the San Diego Natural History Museum, 6,000 photographs in the Museum of Photographic Arts’ vault, and 100,000 archeological objects underneath the Museum of Man, they found some stuff to do. Here is their best of Balboa Park:

Best times to go to the Prado

Tuesday and Wednesday nights, 8-10 p.m. Live music, inexpensive happy hour drinks, and it’s not too hard to get a table.

Best sport to learn: Lawn bowling. This game is tricky because the bowls are asymmetrical. Stop by and ask for a lesson sometime—the experienced bowlers are super friendly.

Best deals: Try The Old Globe’s \$20 under 30 program (people under 30 years of age can score tickets to Shakespeare plays and other performances for just one Andrew Jackson). For a dining steal, Tobey’s 19th Hole is a casual restaurant that overlooks the Balboa Park Golf Course. With \$5 burgers and \$2 beers, it’s one of the best values in the park.

Best view that everyone forgets: Skyward! Heads up: You’ll see tar covering an Automotive Museum window (left-over from World War II) and naked ladies on the architecture of the Casa del Prado, the building that houses the Museum of Photographic Arts.

Best films: Our favorites were *Hubble* at the Fleet and *Ultimate Wave Tahiti 3D* at the Natural History Museum.

Best secret wedding spot: The St. Francis Chapel at the San Diego Museum of Man is largely unknown because it’s only open for private events. The gorgeous, ornate chapel (built to add a religious note to the 1915 Exposition) seats up to 100 people.

Best Urban Grocery

→ Pancho Villa’s

Corn tortillas are made fresh with just corn, water, and lime. The produce is super cheap and good, but plan to use it within days. Grab the queso fresco, salsa, and pan dulce. 3100 E. 8th St., National City, 619-479-2777

*** POLL Best Outdoor Theater?**

43% said Moonlight Amphitheater in Vista

Best Menu Makeover

→ Cavailon

New chef, new menu, same off-the-beaten-path perch in peaceful Santa Luz. We’re ready for the rest of San Diego to discover this gem. 14701 Via Bettona, cavailonrestaurant.com

Best Roving PIZZA Joint

→ Berkeley Pizza

We love their par baked pies on sale at the Little Italy Mercato every Saturday, and we’re excited for their cafe to open later this summer.

Best Restaurant That’s Not Yet On Your Regular Rotation

→ Pizzeria Bruno

It’s won every award and serious foodies love it—yet we often find few customers at this little slice of Napolitano in Hillcrest. Yes, the parking’s tough and the strip of Park Blvd. sketchy, but make it happen, people. *Mangia!* pizzeriabrunosd.com

Best Hidden French Macaroon Spot

→ Big Joy Family’s Bakery & Café

Up to nine kinds of French macaroons are offered weekly at this Kearny Mesa patisserie. Baked on Thursdays, different flavors rotate and join the usuals like the pistachio and sea salt caramel. Just remember the French macaroon golden rule: they’re best at their most fresh. 4176 Convoy St., bigjoyfamily.com