

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

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REVIEW



Florent, left, and Amelia Marneau own Marché Moderne restaurant in Newport Beach.

PAUL RODRIGUEZ — STAFF FILE PHOTO

1. Marché Moderne

Amelia and Florent Marneau moved their legendary bistro from South Coast Plaza to the Crystal Cove Shopping Center this year. A shiny new kitchen is now enclosed behind a wall of glass, and the new space is larger and in many ways more glamorous than the original. A familiar-looking, 10-seat bar still flanks one side of the interior, a counter made more for dining than drinking. The patio is lovelier than ever, the outside air scented with orange blossoms from a neighbor's tree.

Amelia is almost always the one to greet you at the front door, and chef Florent seems re-energized. The four-page menu offers hit after hit: stewed rabbit, steak au poivre, moules frites, hamachi crudo with yuzu-jalapeño sorbet, charred octopus with chorizo emulsion, celery root soup with fresh stone crab ...

This isn't the same Marché Moderne of yore, but it is still the best French bistro in California. 7862 E. Pacific Coast Highway, Newport Beach; 714-434-7900, marchemoderne.net

2. Roux



CINDY YAMANAKA — STAFF FILE PHOTO
Stuffed crab at Roux.

10 BEST NEW RESTAURANTS OF 2017

By Brad A. Johnson
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Burgers, ramen, gumbo and a pot of stewed rabbit were among the biggest stars of the hottest new restaurants of 2017. The best newcomers range from a hoity-toity French bistro on the Newport Coast to a Mediterranean kebab house in Costa Mesa. These are the 10 best new restaurants of the year.



BRAD A. JOHNSON — STAFF FILE PHOTO
American Dream's pastrami burger is small but mighty.

ing, but the best of the lot is the pastrami burger. 21058 Pacific Coast Highway, Huntington Beach; 714-374-1330, theamericandreamhb.com

9. Kabob Republic



BRAD A. JOHNSON — STAFF FILE PHOTO
The döner kebab at Kabob Republic is O.C.'s best.

The new king of döner kebabs has been crowned. It's a tiny Greek/Turkish cafe in Costa Mesa that seems to have come out of nowhere. Actually it's a spinoff of chef Ekrem Ozturk's Mediterranean Grill, a food stall that opened last year inside Irvine's Wholesome Choice Grocery and which nobody has ever heard of until now. Although not much bigger than a food stall, Ozturk's new freestanding restaurant is stunningly handsome, a blue-and-white jewel box straight