



[The Dish]

Jewish Delis

You might know Canter's and Langer's, but you will go meshuga for these off-the-beaten-path alternatives. —Matt Hormann

BRENT'S DELI

It's small and in a strip mall, but everyone from Arnold Schwarzenegger to city council members have sung the praises of Brent's, which delivers mouthwatering food as far north as Santa Barbara and as far south as San Diego. Try the challah French toast or the black pastrami Reuben with melted Swiss cheese and sauerkraut on double-baked rye bread. Entrées, \$13–\$17; sandwiches, \$10–\$15. 19565 Parthenia Street, Northridge, (818) 886-5679; 2799 Townsgate Road, Westlake Village, (805) 557-1882; brentsdeli.com.

DANNY'S DELI & GRILL

All the usual trappings are here in this friendly low-key deli and diner: borscht, matzo ball soup, stuffed cabbage. Sandwiches come in California (small) and New York (large) sizes. Try the grilled eggplant sandwich with Muenster cheese or the colossal savory omelets. Entrées, \$10–\$15; sandwiches, \$8–\$10. 3263 Telegraph Road, Ventura. (805) 289-9200; dannysdeli.com.

D.Z. AKIN'S

D (Debi) and Z (Zvike) Akin founded this homey deli in 1980. Renowned for its Jewish brunch specialties and huge sandwich selection (more than 130), D.Z. Akin's will satisfy deli fans and newbies alike. Specialties include Grandma Fay's matzo brei and soups such as chicken broth with kreplach, noodles, or matzo ball. Entrées, \$12–\$25; sandwiches, \$8–\$18. 6930 Alvarado Road, San Diego. (619) 265-0218; dzakinsdeli.com.

SHERMAN'S DELI & BAKERY

Classic midcentury signage and a gorgeous view of the San Jacinto foothills distinguish this 51-year-old eatery. Emphasis is on the traditional here, but the Beef 'N' Latkes—a corned beef or pastrami sandwich with potato pancakes in place of bread—must be tried to be believed. Entrées, \$10–\$18; sandwiches, \$10–\$15. 401 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs. (760) 325-1199; shermansdeli.com.

BENJIES DELICATESSEN RESTAURANT

New Yorker Stan Weinstein opened Benjies in 1967, bringing a bit of Brooklyn to Orange County. The Reubens here are done just right (without too much grease), and there are free pickles to munch on while you wait. Entrées, \$11–\$20; sandwiches, \$8–\$15. 1828 N. Tustin Avenue, Santa Ana. (714) 541-6263; benjiesdeli.com.

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