

Hot Plates

From best breakfasts to those ill-timed 2 a.m. hunger pangs – and all kinds of eating in between – here's everything you need to know to stay well-fed this summer.



PHOTO BY RALPH PALUMBO
Dean Lindsay and his dogs at Fashion Island

chips. 2276 E. 17th St., Santa Ana, (714) 245-0200; 1701 Corporate Dr., Ste. C8, Ladera Ranch, (949) 364-7080; www.jerrydogs.com

3. Dean Lindsay's Gourmet Hot Dog kiosk There's a reason Dean Lindsay and his cart have been parked by the carousel at Fashion Island since 1991: Patrons have long called his hot dogs the best in Orange County. Plus, there's no hoopla to overcome – toppings are simple and classic, preparation is quick and the price is right.

Hot Dog!

Hot dogs are a microcosm of the restaurant world: They're everywhere, and most are average at best. Forget scouring the county for that perfect frank. Here are our three favorites:

1. Portillo's Hot Dogs What began in 1963 as a small hot dog trailer in Chicago has resulted in a nationwide restaurant phenomenon known for some of the best dogs anywhere. Fortunately for OC eaters, Portillo's location in Buena Park serves up a true Chicago-style hot dog on a perfectly steamed poppy seed bun. 8390 La Palma Ave., Buena Park, (714) 220-6400; www.portillos.com

2. Jerry's Wood-Fired Hot Dogs The secret to Ohio native Jerry O'Connell's hot dogs are in his secret recipe for the meat, which is custom-made by a sausage maker. Cooked over a mesquite wood-fired grill for that unmistakable snap to the skin, Jerry's dogs are best served with the shop's homemade potato



PHOTO BY RALPH PALUMBO
Valet Girls

A Hot Meal

Hot cars sell. Hot girls sell. Put the two together and you get hot girls who drive hot cars, otherwise known as Valet Girls, a concept that uses attractive women to get your car into those tight spots at the most happening locales. The recently opened A Restaurant in Newport Beach is the first business in Orange County to use Valet Girls, and we have to admit: The feminine touch was as sexy as it sounds. Sorry, valet guys. Visit www.valetgirls.com for more information.

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