

944 PICKS

THIS IS OUR COLLECTION OF WHAT'S NEW, WHAT'S ON THE RADAR, WHAT'S NEXT.
IT'S EVERYTHING COOL, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.



WHAT'S NEW

CHAMACO

Summer flicks at last transcend the boundaries of redundant romantic comedies and sequels drowned with special effects; boxing jumps back on to San Diego's big screen on August 27 with the gritty, sexy, cross-cultural film, *Chamaco*. The Spanish film, translated as "The Kid," shares the inspiring journey of a teenager who, under the wing of a father-son team, aims to escape the streets of Mexico City with dreams of boxing. Though the independent film awaits a big mainstream entrance — screening in AMC theaters across 11 key markets nationwide starting this month — its debut ties back to San Diego-based independent film production company Unconventional Films. The hilarious web series *The Crusader* and *Universal Dead* crowned Unconventional Films as a pioneer in new media distribution two years ago. Since then, Unconventional Films has become one of three American-based independent film

companies that qualified for funding from the Mexican government, and the anticipated unveiling of *Chamaco* propels this production company to the front lines of the independent film industry.

"This film is a true Mexico-U.S. indie collaboration, a dual-language, cross-cultural and cross-border film that pulls the two cultures and countries together," says Don Franken of Rogue Arts, Unconventional Films' LA-based, sister production company. In partnership with Mexico's Ivania Films, *Chamaco* was shot exclusively on location in Mexico City under the direction of celebrated Mexican filmmaker Miguel Necoechea. The esteemed cast — including Martin Sheen, Kirk Harris and four-time world boxing champion Marco Antonio Barrera — tells the timeless story of the heart that fuels the punches thrown in life.

619.200.8047 | unfilms.com

by ASHLEY LEE



923 BAR | LOUNGE

During Prohibition, flappers and big shots found illegal watering holes by word of mouth instead of names or neon signs; some speakeasies lacked both and were referred to only by address. Today, the tables have turned, and quenching your thirst for Gaslamp's nightlife can often be done without an address, as many venues can be spotted from afar by long lines, six-inch heels and exclusive guest lists. That is, until, 923. The under-the-radar spot opened its doors as a true speakeasy with a San Diego twist: Code words, costly cover charges and steep sips are replaced with a down-to-earth vibe found nowhere else downtown. From the founding partners of Bare Back Grill, 923 features talent from both up-and-coming and well-known music artists, DJs, photographers and fashion designers, for locals and tourists to enjoy in an upscale yet relaxed setting. Their hot summer lineup includes The Living Legends featuring Aesop Rock, Atmosphere and Del The Funky Homosapien on July 10.

923 Sixth Avenue, Gaslamp Quarter
619.702.7389 | the923.com



NEW KITCHEN SURPRISE AT THE W

He's conquered hotels and fine-dining kitchens nationwide — from New York's historic James Beard House, to the Bellagio Hotel and Hard Rock Hotel's Simon Kitchen and Bar in Las Vegas, to turns around town at Hotel Del Coronado and the five-diamond Ritz Carlton of Laguna Niguel. With more than 15 years of experience in the culinary arts, W San Diego's newly appointed Executive Chef John Garcia celebrates the summer sun with fresh, cutting-edge creations. Crisp new lunch and dinner menus featuring Garcia's signature style are being served this season. Rejuvenate the palate with the Heirloom Tomato Salad, fusing lobster, avocado, grapefruit, vanilla bean and basil, sprinkled with a late harvest Riesling vinaigrette. Then treat the senses with the grilled swordfish, dressed in tomato onion compote, clams and chive oil.

421 West B Street, Downtown San Diego
619.398.3100 | thewsandiegohotel.com



ROAD TRIP ESSENTIALS

Check out these clever new ways to avoid cell phone citations, creepy tow-truck operators and iPods that run out of battery before arriving at the gym ...

Hands-Free Wireless LCD Bluetooth Speakerphone: A car visor can shade sun and hold this gadget for answering calls along a congested commute. Besides, that obnoxious flashing blue light from your earpiece is so not fashion forward. | \$150

Easy Quick Jumper: If you've packed too much luggage in the trunk to store a pair of just-in-case jumper cables, this tool resurrects a dead battery after connecting two cars' lighter sockets for less than 10 minutes. | \$25

Multi-Device Pocket Solar Charger: Countless cords are a concept of the electrical age — charge cell phones, iPods and portable gaming systems for up to 15 hours simply with a quick plug of this solar-charged battery. Easily refillable poolside, while working on that tan. | \$43
cableorganizer.com