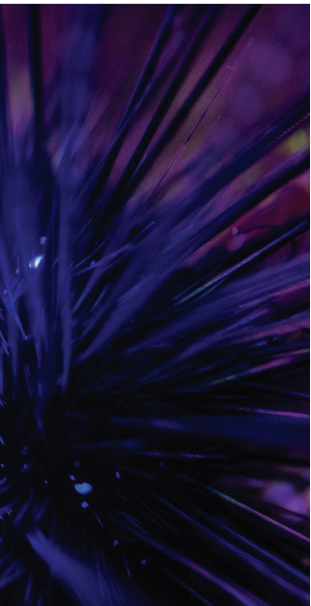



“Where science
meets *sophistication.*”



BIRCH 
AQUARIUM

UC San Diego
SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY

A scenic view of the ocean at sunset from a high vantage point, with a blue telescope in the foreground. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, and the ocean is visible in the distance. The telescope is a blue, vintage-style model with a silver-colored eyepiece and a silver-colored base. The base has the words "EYE VIEWING MACHINES" and a website address "www.birch-aquarium.com" engraved on it. The telescope is mounted on a blue metal railing.

“The ocean stirs the heart,
inspires imagination and brings
eternal joy to the soul.”

Perched high on a bluff with panoramic ocean views, Birch Aquarium offers an unforgettable setting for events that make waves. This one-of-a-kind venue features more than 60 marine habitats, including the mesmerizing two-story *Giant Kelp Forest* that immerses guests in the magic of the underwater world. As the public outreach center for the world-renowned Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego, the aquarium blends stunning scenery with inspiring science giving your guests a deeper connection to our planet through cutting-edge research, animal encounters and vibrant marine life.

Event Spaces

Let's *create* the Best. Day. Ever.

Your special event directly supports Birch Aquarium's mission. Not only will an event at Birch Aquarium create lasting memories, but it will also inspire ocean conservation by supporting exhibits, animal care and education programs. Let our expert Special Events Team bring your vision to life with unforgettable experiences —whether you're planning a convention, corporate mixer, academic retreat, wedding or family gathering. Our stunning venue is available for both after-hours events and semi-private daytime functions, perfect for any occasion worth celebrating.

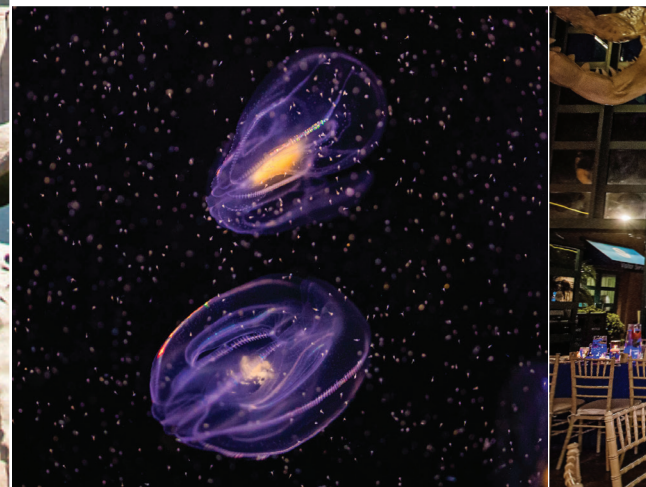
With several spaces to choose from, our team will work with you to create the perfect event.

FULL FACILITY

At more than 30,000 square feet, Birch Aquarium can accommodate up to 1,500 guests with multiple indoor/outdoor setup configurations available. Guests will be able to explore ocean habitats, get hands-on with Scripps Oceanography science and enjoy some of the best ocean views in San Diego.

THE SHELIA MARIE DAVIS GALLERIA

Central and beautiful, Birch Aquarium's Galleria features multi-story windows and stunning ocean views. At 4,200 square feet, this unique indoor space accommodates 400 people for a stand-up reception, 200 for a sit-down dinner, 160 for buffet-style service, and 375 for a theater-style event. This location offers easy access to all of Birch Aquarium's exhibits.



Beautiful spaces and breathtaking views combine to create a day *you'll never forget.*

PREUSS TIDE POOL PLAZA

Featuring the most spectacular views at Birch Aquarium, this 3,750-square-foot open-air space includes panoramic ocean views and the aquarium's tide pool exhibits. Accessible from inside the Galleria, this split-level accessible space accommodates 500 people for a stand-up reception, 140 for a sit-down dinner and 175 for a wedding ceremony. The views from Preuss Tide Pool Plaza are especially spectacular during sunset.

CAFÉ PAVILION

Located at the entrance of Birch Aquarium, this 10,000 square-foot open-air pavilion accommodates 1,000 people for a stand-up reception or 500 seated. It is a spacious area for a variety of events and features dramatic life-sized brass statues of breaching gray whales.

THE DIRECTOR'S DECK/DELACOUR CONFERENCE ROOM

Our spacious conference room is a single room with 90" TV, internet and A/V connections for you to utilize during your event. This room can accommodate up to 60 guests depending on the room configuration, and also has access to our Director's Deck, which provides stunning views of the Pacific Ocean and is a wonderful spot for breaks or lunch.

ENTRANCE COURTYARD

This 3,000-square-foot entirely open-air space is a great area to extend your party from the indoor Galleria. It accommodates 300 for a reception and 170 for a sit-down dinner.

BEYSTER FAMILY LITTLE BLUE PENGUINS

Beyster Family Little Blue Penguins — a 3,000-square-foot open-air courtyard enclosed on four sides — is surrounded by Little Blue Penguins swimming, waddling and nesting.

BLUE BEACH

At 6,000 square feet, this open-air courtyard offers guests panoramic views of La Jolla Shores and immediate access to *Shark & Rays*, which features local Leopard Sharks and rays. The space — which features a stunning floor mural — accommodates 550 people for a stand-up reception or up to 300 seated and is also available for semi-private rentals during the aquarium's operating hours. **Square footage may be reduced for special exhibits.*

***All available spaces and guest numbers are subject to change.*



Policies and Procedures

EVENT HOURS

Birch Aquarium's hours change seasonally, and we offer flexible options to suit your event needs. Blue Beach and the Director's Deck/DeLaCour Conference Room are available for semi-private daytime rentals, with setup permitted during business hours under staff supervision. All events must conclude by 10 p.m., though extended hours may be arranged for an additional fee. Please note that setup and breakdown guidelines vary depending on event size and location.

SECURITY

Birch Aquarium requires event security for all facility rentals. The number of security guards will be based on the number of attendees for each event. The fee for security guard(s) will automatically be added to your invoice.

MAINTENANCE

Caterers and vendors are responsible for clean-up. In-house maintenance staff will be present to handle facility emergencies. Standard facility cleaning is included in the facility rental fees. If additional assistance is necessary, fees will apply for extra staffing.



PARKING

For evening events, Birch Aquarium provides up to 230 parking spaces, which are included in the rental fee. For daytime events, additional parking fees apply. Off-site parking options are available upon request with additional fees.

CATERING

Clients must contract with one of our exclusive caterers. Birch Aquarium has food and beverage restrictions due to exhibits. Guests are allowed to tour the facility with their hors d'oeuvres and beverage in hand.

BAR SERVICE

Birch Aquarium works exclusively with the on-site bar service that holds the current liquor license issued by the State of California. Clients must contract for bar service if alcohol will be served during their event.

DECORATIONS

Decor may not be attached to any wall, floor or ceiling without permission. Anything that was once a part of a marine habitat (such as shells, sea stars or corals) is not allowed as decoration. All decor must be approved prior to the event by the Special Events Team.





The event
you *imagine*,
brought to life.

RENTAL FEES

Please contact the Special Events Team for a customized quote and a site visit. Email aquariumevents@ucsd.edu or call (858) 822-5439.

SET UP/BREAKDOWN

All setup and breakdown of events must occur on the same day unless prior arrangements have been approved by the Special Events Team. The aquarium is not responsible for any materials, rentals or decor left behind. Additional fees may apply for substantial mess or items left behind.

EQUIPMENT

All equipment vendors — including furniture and audiovisual — must provide a valid business license and liability insurance to the aquarium.

ACCESSIBILITY

The University of California is in compliance with the Section 503/504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you are a person with a disability and have questions regarding accommodation to access these events, please call (858) 534-7563.

INSURANCE

The client and vendors all must provide a one-day certificate of insurance listing the Regents of the University of California as a certificate holder and a separate endorsement naming The Regents of the University of California as additionally insured.

STAFFING

The aquarium Special Events Team will be on-site throughout your event to assist with event logistics. Staff is not available to set up, tear down, move inventory or assist contracted vendors during the event. Please work with your vendors to ensure ample staff is scheduled for your event.

SMOKING

Smoking is strictly prohibited at Birch Aquarium and all other UC San Diego properties. This includes the parking lot and all outdoor spaces.





“Simplicity is
the ultimate
sophistication.”





Frequently Asked Questions

WHEN CAN I HOST MY EVENT?

Birch Aquarium is available for morning, daytime and evening events.

ARE YOUR MORNING OR AFTERNOON RENTALS PRIVATE?

We offer semi-private to private events.

DO I HAVE TO RENT THE ENTIRE FACILITY, OR IS THERE AN OPTION TO RENT JUST PART OF IT IN THE EVENING?

Blue Beach and the Director's Deck/ DeLaCour Conference Room are available for semi-private rentals during regular aquarium hours. Access to the rest of the facility is limited to after-hours events. Full-facility buyouts are also available for those seeking an exclusive experience.

WHEN CAN I SET UP?

Set up will depend on the time of the year and location.

ARE THERE SOUND RESTRICTIONS?

Yes. All entertainment must be approved in advance. Amplified music is allowed with limitations to protect marine life and respect nearby residences. Please consult the Special Events Team for details.

IS 6 P.M. TO 10 P.M. ENOUGH TIME FOR MY EVENT?

Yes, four hours is ample time for most events.

ARE THERE ANY RESTRICTIONS ON DECORATION?

Yes, the following decor is not allowed: rice, birdseed, confetti, balloons, sand, shells or marine life, including anything that was once living in the ocean. Replicas of marine life are allowed. All decor must be approved 30 days in advance.

CAN WE EXTEND THE RENTAL PERIOD?

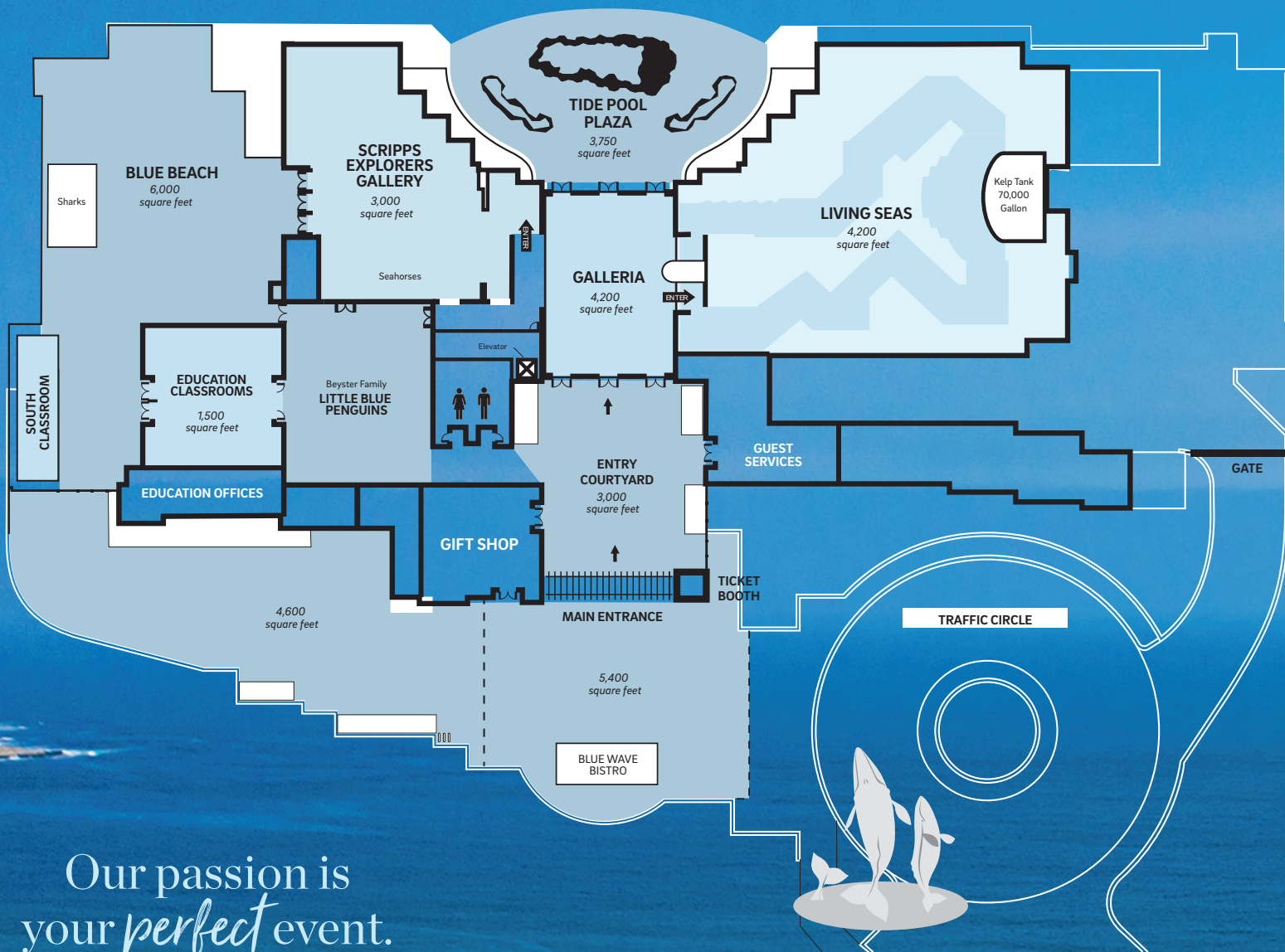
Yes, we do offer an additional hour for an additional fee. Please contact the Special Events Team for details.

DO YOU HAVE EXCLUSIVE CATERING COMPANIES?

Yes, we have a vetted list of approved caterers selected through a competitive RFP process. They offer excellent food and service, a variety of menu options at different price points, and are fully insured and permitted. Each is familiar with our venue and includes food, staff, beverages, tables, linens, and more in their proposals.

Our Venue

*square footage is approximate

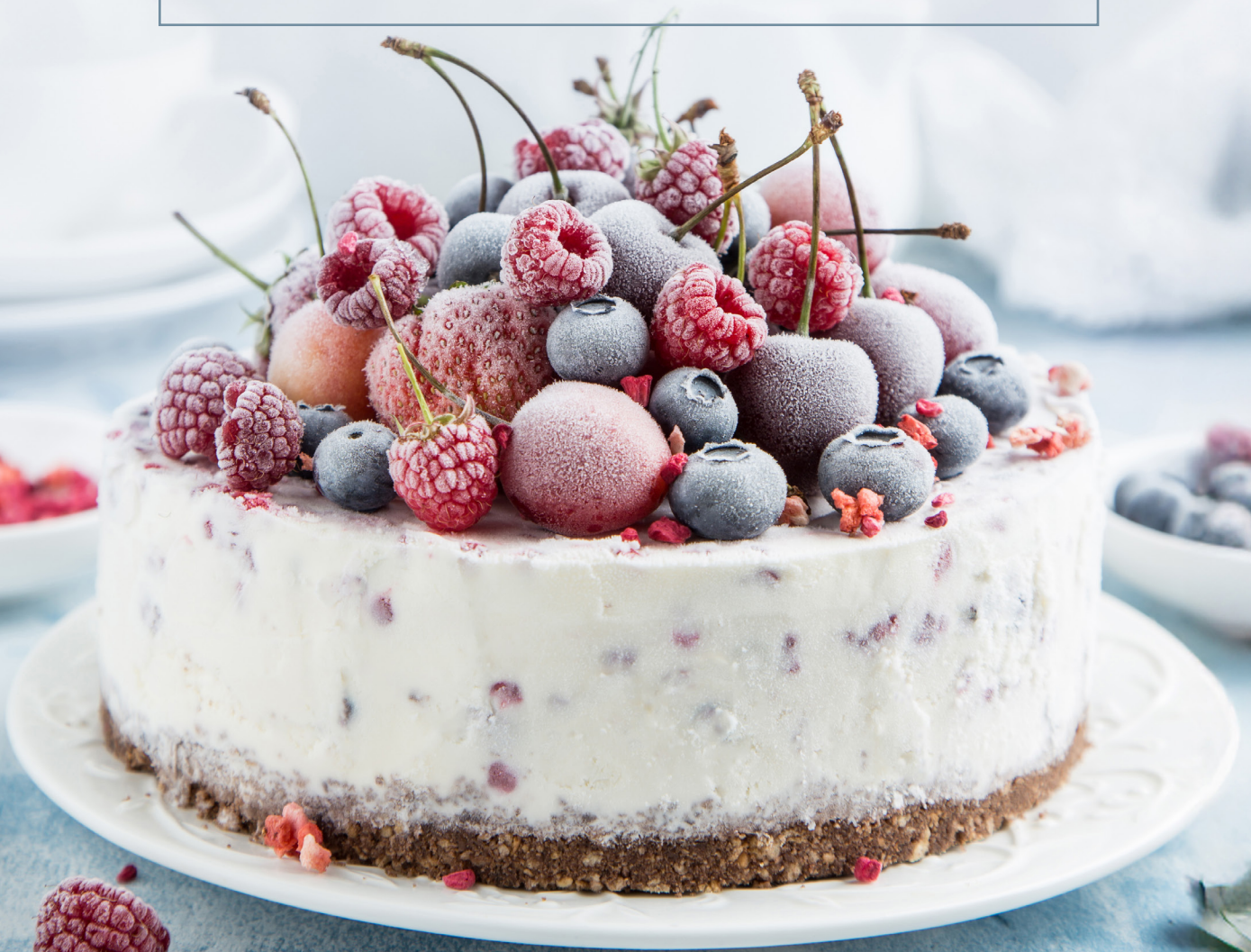


Our passion is
your *perfect* event.

Exclusive Catering Collection

“There is no sincerer love
than the *love of food.*”

Birch Aquarium at Scripps has an exclusive catering collection and clients must contract with one of the exclusive caterers. Birch Aquarium has food and beverage restrictions due to exhibits. Guests are allowed to tour the facility with their hors d'oeuvres and beverages in hand.





Behind the Scenes

AN EXPERIENCE IN GREAT TASTE

At Behind the Scenes, we're known for being innovative, passionate, and detail-oriented. Since 1985, our dedicated team has delivered custom-crafted catering and event planning experiences that are as seamless as they are memorable.

What began as backstage celebrity catering has grown into a premium full-service culinary company trusted by clients across San Diego, the U.S., and internationally. From intimate weddings to large-scale corporate functions, we specialize in tailoring every detail to reflect our clients' unique visions.

With decades of experience, a commitment to excellence, and a deep love for hospitality, we bring creativity, care, and precision to every event. Whether you're planning a cozy celebration or an elaborate production, we're here to ensure it's unforgettable—down to the very last bite.





Coast Catering

QUALITY. CREATIVITY. PROFESSIONALISM.

At Coast Catering, we provide an upscale restaurant-style experience tailored for weddings, corporate gatherings, and private events. Our cuisine is inventive, inspired, and always delicious—from elevated takes on classic favorites to bold new adventures in creative, modern cuisine. We specialize in innovative, custom menus tailored to suit every occasion, vision, and palate. Whether you're planning an intimate dinner or a large celebration, we have the expertise and trusted vendor relationships to bring your vision to life and execute every detail flawlessly.

Beyond exceptional food, we offer a seamless event experience with the support of our sister company, Crown Rentals. This full-service rental division includes china, flatware, glassware, tables, chairs, kitchen equipment, lighting, dance floors, staging, draping, high-end specialty linens, and décor—everything needed to elevate your event from start to finish.



COAST

CATERING

(877) 577-1718
coastcatering.com
info@coastcatering.com



Continental Catering

TASTINESS STARTS HERE.

We'll cook for you! It's kind of our thing. Our commitment is to be polished and professional at all times, listen to your vision and goals, add a dash of passion, sprinkle in our creativity, mix in lots of delectable flavors, and top it all off with spectacular guest service.

Our expertise is full-service catering but that is just a taste of what we can do! We also offer custom and personalized menus, rentals, staffing, and over 40 years of wisdom.



(619) 698-3500

continentalcateringsd.com

info@continentalcateringsd.com



Crown Point

YOUR EVENT IS OUR INSPIRATION!

We're proud of our four decades in San Diego and especially appreciative of the rich diverse culture of warmth and hospitality that Southern California inherently offers. Keeping things fresh goes beyond procuring ingredients from the farm or ranch.

We're committed to sustaining and supporting our community by keeping it local and in season. Our hand crafted coastal cuisine highlights bold and authentic flavors with a distinct California twist.

Whether it's close to home or global, our team of foodies gets inspired when we explore new possibilities to share with others.



CROWN POINT
CATERING

(619) 223-1211
crownpointcatering.com
sales@crownpointcatering.com



Culinary Concepts

EXPERIENCE IS EVERYTHING.

For over 30 years, Culinary Concepts has captivated guests with exceptional food, outstanding service, and seamless execution. As a pillar of San Diego's hospitality industry, we bring passion and expertise to every event, intertwining food and entertainment to create memorable events. We manage every detail from concept to completion, allowing clients to enjoy the moment with confidence & ease.

At Culinary Concepts, we believe great food is the heart of every celebration. Our Executive Chef curates each menu to reflect the unique tastes and vision of every client, ensuring personalized and unforgettable experiences. We're dedicated to using fresh, high-quality ingredients and innovative presentation to captivate guests and elevate events of all sizes.

From intimate gatherings to large-scale corporate events and celebrations, our experienced team works closely with clients to bring their ideas to life.



Culinary
Concepts

(858) 251-4646
culinaryconcepts.com
info@culinaryconcepts.com



Feast on This

We specialize in thoughtfully curated culinary experiences for weddings, corporate events, and upscale social gatherings. With over 25 years of experience, we bring a seamless blend of impeccable service, chef-driven innovation, and personalized attention to every event.

We have an unwavering commitment to customization. We collaborate closely with planners and clients to craft immersive dining experiences that reflect their unique tastes, themes, and goals. From seasonal, sustainably sourced, chef-inspired menus to full-scale event production—including rentals, staffing, and décor—we manage every detail with precision and care.

Whether it's an elegant wedding reception overlooking the Pacific or an imaginative corporate celebration surrounded by ocean life, our team brings creativity, professionalism, and a warm, polished approach that makes every event truly unforgettable.



(858) 597-0740
feastonthis.com
info@feastonthis.com



The French Gourmet

IT'S ALWAYS A DELICIOUS DAY AT THE FRENCH GOURMET!

After more than 46 years serving our patrons, it is a reassurance to know that pursuing our passion for delicious food is appreciated.

We enjoy catering — from wedding receptions, holiday parties, social celebrations, fund-raisers, and corporate events to simple individual easy-to-grab-and-enjoy meals — our offering reflects our commitment to originality, freshness, and simple celebration of taste.

Our well-known award-winning bakery and restaurant give us the ability to accommodate possible last minute changes.



THE FRENCH GOURMET
Catering • Restaurant • Bakery • Wine Boutique

(858) 488-1725 Ext. 3
thefrenchgourmet.com
catering@thefrenchgourmet.com



Saltaire

Catering by UC San Diego

THE CAMPUS EXPERTS. INCLUSIVE AND FRESH. EXCELLENCE AND CLARITY.

From concept to completion, our personalized service, event coordination, and knowledge of the University is second to none.

Our culinary team works just steps away from Birch Aquarium, guaranteeing excellence with the freshest, most creative menus.

Whether crafting meals for a multi-day conference, entrees for a memorable wedding, or plated dinners for an elegant fundraiser, our experienced team provides elevated, flawless service. Contact our sales and event staff today to start creating your next special occasion!



SALTAIRE
CATERING by UC SAN DIEGO

(858) 534-3688
saltaire.ucsd.edu
saltaire@ucsd.edu



Terra Catering & Events

We are passionate about bringing people together through exceptional cuisine rooted in the farm-to-table philosophy. With over 27 years of restaurant and catering experience serving San Diego, we take pride in crafting chef-driven/restaurant quality menus that highlight fresh, locally sourced ingredients while cooking onsite for the highest quality and flavor.

Whatever the occasion, our sole mission is to create an event your guests will always remember and make your event a complete success. With overflowing creativity and a gracious and dynamic staff, let Terra Catering be your hospitality partner.

At Terra, Chef/Owner Jeff Rossman is not just about food—he and the team are about creating connections and elevating every moment throughout the entire event building clients for life.



(619) 993-1437
terracatering.com
events@terracatering.com



The Wild Thyme Company

WILDLY EXCEPTIONAL CATERER

Your premier choice for catering and event services, with over 20 years of experience creating wildly exceptional celebrations throughout San Diego County and beyond. We are proud to be a preferred catering partner of Birch Aquarium, where we've had the pleasure of serving countless unforgettable events over the years. Whether you're planning a romantic coastal wedding, a corporate celebration, or a unique evening under the sea, our team brings creativity, professionalism, and personalized service to every detail.

We know Birch Aquarium's flow and atmosphere well, and we work closely with the venue team to ensure a seamless experience from start to finish.

Our menus are crafted using only the freshest, finest ingredients, locally inspired, beautifully presented, and always full of flavor. From thoughtfully curated bites to full-service plated dinners and vibrant buffets, we tailor each event to reflect your vision and the stunning surroundings of this one-of-a-kind venue.



(858) 527-0226

thewildthymecompany.com

info@thewildthymecompany.com



PRIVATE EVENTS

2300 Expedition Way | La Jolla, CA 92037
858.822.5439 | aquariumevents@ucsd.edu
www.aquarium.ucsd.edu