

ICE CREAM-FILLED DOUGHNUTS  
PB&J SRIRACHA BURGER  
FOUR-PEPPER PORTER

MAPLE BACON MILKSHAKE  
CHICKEN-FRIED EGG  
SUMMER BAT TOUR

POSTCARD-PERFECT  
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RETRO ARCADE

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# BEAT

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## PESTO MAGIC

If you think you can't live by bread alone, then you've probably never tried the basil-laced cloud of doughy decadence that is the pesto milk bread from midtown's **New Roma Bakery**. All of this century-old shop's breads are hand-rolled daily by owner Tim Costa (who took over the establishment in 2000) and baked in its brick oven at 600 degrees. The cylindrical result bears a striking resemblance to its conventional French bread cousin, whose basic recipe is primarily the same save one difference: the buttermilk in New Roma's milk bread (French bread uses water) prompts a denser interior and a slightly softer, but still crispy crust. With zesty pesto folded into the dough before it hits the oven—lending a tantalizing aroma that wafts from the bread and tickles the taste buds with just a hint of the sweet-smelling herb—this loaf may just be the best thing since sliced bread. 1800 E St. 443-2346

## WAY TO GO BAT CRAZY

As the sun sets, the Mexican free-tailed bats of the Yolo Basin ribbon out from their dark den beneath the causeway, flying up to two miles high to hunt for the moths and insects that haunt the crops of the agrarian outlands below. These tiny and docile creatures—small enough to fit in the palm of a hand—have made the three-mile-long bridge their summer breeding home for years, growing to a colony 250,000 strong. During one of the popular summer tours run by the **Yolo Basin Foundation** (\$12 per adult), visitors can see captive bats up close at the nature center, then caravan out into the rice fields to watch the evening exodus—a beguiling reminder that we're a worldly region with a wild side. 530-757-3780. [yolobasin.org](http://yolobasin.org)

## GARDEN VARIETY

Even if you don't know wisteria from a weed, it's easy to be green with the **Arboretum All-Stars**, a list of 100 tough plants recommended by the scientists and horticulturalists of UC Davis' Arboretum and California Center for Urban Horticulture. These hardy selections, such as the lovely California fuchsia and colorful autumn sage, are low-maintenance, pretty pest-proof and best yet, drought-resistant. A tip: If your garden can wait, the next Arboretum sale is Oct. 10. Plant some All-Stars then, and wintertime showers will hopefully bring beautiful spring flowers. [arboretum.ucdavis.edu](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu)

## SHAKE SHACK

When husband-and-wife team Suzanne Carlon and Pat Taylor first opened their milkshake joint **Taylor's**, they debuted with an impressive lineup of 100 flavors. Four years later, these Loomis-based sultans of shakes have tripled down, dreaming up more than 300 intriguing varieties for adventurous treat lovers—everything from house-made cookie dough and pancake to lavender, rose, maple bacon (which uncannily tastes like the real thing) and Chick-O-Stick (an industrial blender pulverizes pieces of the famous peanut-butter-and-coconut candy before mixing them into the drink). The base is ice cream from D&P Creamery in Roseville, and the pint-size shop has been known to pump out an eye-popping 500 shakes a day on weekends. Even the most decisive milkshake mavens will second-guess their orders, and if you don't have time to read through the full menu that lines the walls, just make something up—it's likely on the list anyway. 3636 Taylor Rd. Loomis. 652-8255

## BADASS BIBLIOPHILES

When contemplating the leisure choices of 20- and 30-somethings, "hanging out at the library" probably doesn't come instinctively to mind. The Sacramento Public Library is changing that with its **alt+library** program, which has built a devoted young following with offbeat events involving fitness ("Punk Rock Aerobics"), handmade crafts ("Broke-A\$\$ Holidays"), movies ("Bollywood Night"), speed dating and—of course—monthly book clubs. The events are the handiwork of library staffer Jessica Zaker and her former colleague Lori Easterwood, who launched alt+library in 2010. The program has since drawn hundreds of regional fans as well as national attention for its founders (Zaker and Easterwood were cited this year among *Library Journal's* "Movers & Shakers"), establishing a hip, homegrown innovator in keeping libraries both relevant and cool in the 21st century. [altlibrary.com](http://altlibrary.com)

# STREET ART SENSATION

Although big public artworks can make a major splash (à la the Jeff Koons sculpture planned outside the new downtown arena), we love projects of any scale that bring color and life to Sacramento streets, like the **Capitol Box Art Project**. A joint venture by Capitol Area Development Authority (CADA) and Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission (SMAC), the two groups worked together last year and enlisted regional painters, photographers, graphic designers and others to transform 29 graffiti-prone traffic utility boxes throughout downtown and midtown into works of art. The result: arresting vinyl-wrapped rectangles depicting everything from a musician playing the cello to a chef cracking an egg that provide a bold visual splash to drab city corners. How's that for thinking outside the box? [capitolboxart.com](http://capitolboxart.com)