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Battle for Monterey County's Best Restaurant Block, Part II (Mission Street in Carmel).

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by [Mark Anderson](#)

Not too long ago [Conde Nast ranked Carmel number seven in its list of Best American Cities for Foodies](#), ahead of Portland, Austin, Healdsburg, Santa Fe, Boston, Seattle and Las Vegas.



MARK C. ANDERSON

And—breaking news—Carmel is tiny. One square mile tiny.

So when the *Weekly* set out to find the most dense block of restaurants in Monterey County, Carmel seemed destined to top the list.

[Check out "[Battle for the Best Restaurant Block in Monterey County: Part One \(Lighthouse Avenue in New Monterey\)](#)" on the food blog and look for the other two entries in coming days. Comments or nominees can be emailed to edible@mcweekly.com.]

Dolores Street came to mind, but it turns out its most populous block, between Ocean and Seventh, includes only five restaurants, albeit some biggies: **Cantinetta Luca**, **Salumeria Luca**, **Le St Tropez**, **La Bicyclette** and **Little Napoli**.

A particular stretch of San Carlos Street includes five if you count courtyard spots —**Nico**, **Mundaka**, **Barmel**, **Basil** and **Carmel Belle**—and Lincoln between Ocean and Seventh numbers four if you count corner spot **Dametra** along with **Cottage Restaurant**, **Merlot Bistro** and **Portabella**.

Which means...Carmel's contender for best restaurant block is Mission between Ocean and Seventh, thanks to the following mother lode

1. **Flying Fish Grill** (625-1962) • The easy-to-overlook bottom-level Carmel Plaza spot is a legend among locals in the know—including chefs—for black bean halibut and almond-crusted sea bass served at low Japanese-style tables in a cool Eastern-styled setting.



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Show Summary

Local Band & Musician Directory



2. **Patisserie Boissiere** (624-5008) • This 50-year-old establishment brings French country food to the table in dishes including shepherd's pie, quiche maison and red wine-glazed lamb shanks.
3. **Andre's Bouchee** (626-7880) • A must-visit for French food lovers, because of expert sauces in dishes like pan seared sweetbreads, balsamic glazed salmon and maple glazed lamb shank.
4. **Tommy's Wok** (624-8518) • A perennial winner for Best Chinese and Best Take Out among *Weekly* readers for popular dishes like Mongolian lamb, cashew prawns and Szechuan pork—plus speedy service that borders on acrobatic given the small space.
5. **Anton & Michel** (624-2406) • This longtime institution with a beautiful fountain patio enjoys a recent remodel and updating of the French menu to include treats like spiced pork tenderloin, Guinness-and-hoisin-braised short ribs and lemon peppered barramundi.
6. **400 Degrees Gourmet Burgers & Fries** (244-0400) • The upscale burger joint serves up classic Black Angus burgers, buffalo burgers, Kobe burgers and housemade black bean veggie burgers, with robust toppings and deluxe shakes and fries.

Thomas Gray contributed to this report.

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