

Tequila-centric bars, eateries on the rise



By **Pam Kragen** · Contact Reporter

SEPTEMBER 27, 2018, 5:00 AM

San Diego may have a well-earned reputation as a craft beer mecca, but it's quickly becoming a tequila town.

Several new restaurants and bars have opened from the Gaslamp Quarter to Oceanside with bar programs centered around upscale tequila and mezcal brands served in shots, flights and cocktails.



A tequila cocktail at Death by Tequila restaurant in Encinitas one of several just-opened restaurant that specialize in tequila and mezcal bar drinks. (Cole Ferguson)

Death by Tequila, [Encinitas](#)

Opened in mid-July by Carlsbad residents Chad and Jessica Mestler, this Baja-inspired upscale Mexican restaurant and bar has more than 80 tequilas and 30 mezcals on its bar menu, as well as wines from Mexico's Valle de Guadalupe and Mexican beers on draft and in cans and bottles. It offers a variety of fruit juice- and herb-infused margaritas on the rocks and 10 tequila cocktails. Signatures include the Tres Cacti, made with Hacienda Silver tequila, lemon, prickly pear, agave and Jarritos soft drink; the Los Muertos, made with Milagro Silver tequila, lime, mango and chile ash, served on the rocks; and Frothing in Puerto, made with Gracias a Dios mezcal, lemon, vanilla, pineapple and egg white served in a coupe glass. *569 S. Coast Highway 101, Encinitas. (760) 230-6108. deathbytequila.com*