



➡ **TOP:** Chef David Hall at Urban Grill ➡ **RIGHT:** Pork chop at Urban Grill

urban name game



Orange County is often called suburban, but we beg to differ. Especially since the urban area to which we are supposedly "sub" is L.A. Still, only a select few of our communities can be considered urban centers, and Foothill Ranch is definitely not one of them. Irvine? An argument could be made for it. Adding the word urban to a restaurant name does add a cool quotient, even if it's located in a post-suburban shopping center.

➡ **URBAN SEOUL** This hip Korean/Mexican hybrid gastropub in Irvine's Diamond Jamboree center is one of our favorite spots in the county. Gogi quesadillas, spicy pork tacos and chorizo fried rice are a few favorites. Parking can be a challenge at the Asian chic super center on Jamboree, so South County fans are happy to hear a second location is opening soon at the Irvine Spectrum in the spot once occupied by Taverna Blu. /// urban-seoul.com

➡ **URBAN PLATES** There is almost always a line at this fast-casual, farm-to-table, cafeteria-style spot in Irvine's Crossroads Center. It's clear that the Tender Greens/Lemonade style of dining is popular, though we get tired of waiting behind people sampling everything on display. Our solution? We cut to what we want! /// urbanplates.com

➡ **URBAN GRILL** Orange County Register critic Brad A. Johnson liked the burger, the pork chop and the wine program at this spot in Foothill Ranch, which is good enough for us. /// urbangrillandwinebar.com

➡ **URBAN CACTUS** This fresh Mexican spot just opened on Chapman near the 405 in Orange. With organic and free range meats in the tacos (we liked the chicken pibil and skinny carnitas) and a choice of three freshly made house salsas. And for paleo people: they have bison. ♦