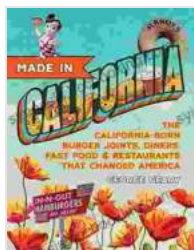


# The California Born Diners, Burger Joints & Restaurants That Changed Fast Food Forever



## Made In California: The California-Born Diners, Burger Joints, Restaurants & Fast Food that Changed America

by George Geary

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English  
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
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California, the land of sunshine, surf, and culinary innovation, has been at the forefront of the fast food revolution for decades. From the golden age of drive-ins to the rise of gourmet burgers, California's iconic diners, burger joints, and restaurants have left an indelible mark on American cuisine.

Drive-ins first emerged in Southern California in the 1920s, offering a quick and affordable dining option for car-owning families. These early drive-ins were often simple roadside stands, but they quickly evolved into sprawling complexes with carhops, roller-skating waitresses, and neon signs that illuminated the night.



One of the most famous drive-ins of the era was the Pig Stand, which opened in Los Angeles in 1921. The Pig Stand was known for its delicious barbecue and its signature dish, the "Pig Sandwich." Another popular drive-in was the Bob's Big Boy, which opened in Glendale in 1936. Bob's Big Boy is credited with inventing the double-decker hamburger, which has become a staple of fast food menus around the world.

In the 1950s and 1960s, drive-ins reached their peak of popularity. They were a popular destination for teenagers, who cruised the streets in their cars and hung out at drive-ins with their friends. Drive-ins also became a popular setting for movies and television shows, which further cemented their place in American culture.



However, the popularity of drive-ins began to decline in the 1970s. The rise of fast food chains, such as McDonald's and Burger King, offered a more convenient and affordable dining option. Many drive-ins were forced to close their doors, and those that remained open often struggled to compete with the big chains.

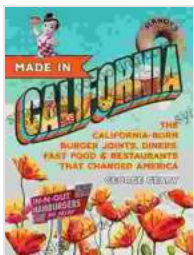
In the 1980s, a new generation of burger joints emerged in California. These new burger joints focused on quality ingredients and gourmet burgers, which appealed to a more discerning clientele. One of the pioneers of the gourmet burger movement was In-N-Out Burger, which opened its first restaurant in Baldwin Park in 1948. In-N-Out Burger is known for its fresh, made-to-order burgers, which are made with high-quality beef and cooked to perfection.



Another popular gourmet burger joint is The Counter, which opened its first restaurant in Santa Monica in 2003. The Counter allows customers to create their own custom burgers, choosing from a variety of toppings and sauces. The Counter has become a popular destination for burger lovers, and it has expanded to locations all over the country.

# The California Born Diners, Burger Joints & Restaurants That Changed Fast Food Forever

Today, California is still home to some of the best diners, burger joints, and restaurants in the world. From classic drive-ins to gourmet burger joints, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Whether you are looking for a quick and affordable bite to eat or a more upscale dining experience, California's culinary scene has something to offer.



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