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→ PB&J



NATIVE KNOWLEDGE:

→ Brian's 24 gets busy for breakfast, so come early. This place also gets very busy when the clubs close, so beat the crowds by arriving before 1:30 a.m.

ANDREA'S TOP 5 COMFORT FOODS

1. PB&J
2. Ice cream
3. Pancakes
4. Chocolate
5. Burritos



BRIAN'S 24
828 Sixth Ave
San Diego, CA 92101
619.702.8410
www.brians24.com

→ After stepping inside Brian's 24, the elegant interior of the more than 100 year old building evokes a swank establishment with daunting menus and microscopic dishes. However, the friendly and courteous wait-staff and the oversized burgers and pancakes create an immediately inviting atmosphere. A beaming chandelier in the middle of the room and a completely tin ceiling complement the upscale setting in Brian's 24. An open copper kitchen sits beside a sprawling mahogany bar previously owned by Joan Crawford. The Gaslamp Quarter restaurant is the only 24-hour full service restaurant in the area. The warm, familiar environment makes Brian's 24 a great spot for overdue family brunches and those late-night comfort food cravings.

The PB&J Club is just one of 200 comfort food items on the menu. Between three layers of thick-cut sourdough bread lie generous coats of peanut butter, strawberry preserves, grape jelly and sweetened cream cheese. This is what dreams are made of: A childhood staple turned into a guilty pleasure of adulthood. Although the dish is on the sandwich menu, the

pure decadence makes it a wonderful dessert item. You'll be reminded of eating on the playground swing set, except the bread hasn't been squished in your lunch bag and the Wonder Bread is now toasted sourdough. It's safe to say that after consuming this sandwich, PB&J without cream cheese will no longer seem like a viable option.

Brian's 24 is known for its colossal pancakes, tender and crispy chicken and waffles and enormous omelets. The quality of the food is everything. The meat for the burgers, for example, is ground by a local butcher—never frozen. Customers keep coming back, however, because of the hospitality and family feel of the restaurant. "We're not one of those intimidating places with intimidating menus, where the average person doesn't know what half the things are," owner Andrea Epstein said. The establishment is family operated by Andrea, her brother Brian, her sister Robin, and her mother Ida. They have a staff of 40 employees she considers an extension of the family. "I get comments from the customers all the time about how fun it is to come in, and how everybody feels welcome and comfortable," Epstein says.

THIS IS WHAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF: A CHILDHOOD STAPLE TURNED INTO A GUILTY PLEASURE OF ADULTHOOD.