



The taste of oregano stood out from the other herbs in the butternut squash soup.

The pork chop was the star

New La Mesa eatery now open

By Candice Reed, March 7, 2017

The [Farmer's Table](#) restaurant in downtown La Mesa had only been open a week when my mother invited us to try it out with her. When we arrived, the line was out the door, and the seats at the bar were all full. Lucky for us, I had made a reservation, and that was a first — making a reservation at a La Mesa restaurant.



At the corner of Date Avenue and La Mesa Boulevard

The large room was already bustling at 6 p.m., and the [former Sanfilippo's Pizzeria](#) has never looked better. Now it's decorated as an old farmhouse, with rusty chandeliers hanging from the ceiling and a 1940 tractor in the bar and plants everywhere. Some of the benches and tables are made from old car parts, tires, and vintage suitcases. The vibe was noisy and fun, but our table outside was a little more conducive to catching up with my mom after we had been traveling for a month.



A 1940's tractor is the centerpiece of the room.

The menu boasts fresh food from local farms, and so we started off with the burnt carrot salad — mainly because the name sounded fun. Our server brought us a plate of pretty baby carrots, not burnt at all, served with small portions of red onion, avocado, and feta. Everything about the dish was delicate, and the taste was fresh and light. All children would eat their carrots if they tasted like the ones created by executive chef

Vincenzo Loverso.



The burnt carrot salad was delicate and

My mom ordered the soup of the day, butternut squash with fresh herbs and ratatouille risotto. My husband and I shared the “kurobuta” pork chop (“hog” in Japanese) and roasted corn mashed potatoes with dried apricot and balsamic reduction.

When the food arrived, I felt as if we were sitting at a farmer's table, reaching over each other and sharing tastes of the dishes like a bunch of rubes. Mom's soup was so creamy. The oregano stood out the most for me. We both vowed to find the recipe and recreate the flavors.



The kurobuta pork chop stands out.

The pork chop was large, juicy, and marbled with a slight red color. The potatoes were fluffy, and the subtle taste of the corn was unique. But the chop was the star. The risotto had a creamy but chewy texture, and the fresh farm-to-table vegetables in it were bursting with flavor.

Watching the cars drive slowly past our table as the sun set, it dawned on me that with the addition of the Farmer's Table, downtown La

Mesa's [long-time makeover](#) may be complete.