



PresSDiego's Picks for March Madness

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Oh the madness! That's right, March Madness. It's the greatest time of the year for college sports and, to some fans, sports period. The NCAA men basketball tournament is entering its 77th year, but the term "March Madness" has been around for much longer. It originated in Illinois. From a small high school invitational tournament, to a statewide competition of over 900 schools, basketball feverengulfed the state of Illinois and had the attention of the nation. From H. V. Porter's first use of the term in an essay in 1939 to the Illinois High School Association receiving trademark status around 1989, March Madness has always been about competition and celebrating the love of the game.



March Madness 2015 begins on Selection Sunday, March 15. Games begin on March 17 with the Championship Game taking place on April 6. If you're looking for the best spot to watch all the games along with for awesome apps and cocktails, check out our recommendations of where to catch the games and enjoy the madness in San Diego.

In the heart of the Gaslamp, **Barleymash** is your one stop shop for all things March Madness. Watch all the college basketball action on one of barleymash's 35 flat screen TVs while sipping on one of the 30 handcrafted beers on tap. Split a barley pie or some iron fries while watching the game during lunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. or during happy hour from 3 to 6 p.m.

Lumberyard Tavern has college basketball fever up in Encinitas. Don't miss out on their March Madness Bracket Challenge. Enter the raffle for a chance to win a new snowboard, lift tickets and a \$50 Lumberyard gift card. The more you come in to watch, the more chances you have to win! Lumberyard is the place to celebrate a win with a shot of whiskey or recover from a loss with a helping of comfort food.

Get those brackets out and head to **Tavern** in PB to catch all the basketball action. Order up a handcraft cocktail or select your favorite brew on tap and watch the games on one of the 42 HD TVs. Make Tavern "your spot" this March Madness season and sit at one of the tap tables for endless refills of your favorite beer, right at your fingertips.

Sandbar Sports Bar & Grill is the luckiest bar at the beach. They'll be kicking off March Madness on March 17—aka St. Paddy's Day—at 6 a.m. with green beer specials and shenanigans all day long. Catch the rest of the madness on Sandbar's renovated Sky Deck and watch the games the San Diego way with fish tacos and a margarita.

Dive into the madness this March at **The Duck Dive**. They're open at 9 a.m. all March long for \$3 Absolut Bloody Buddies, \$15 Bottomless Mimosas and brunch to enjoy while watching the games. Or stop by later in the day for \$20 Buckets of Coronas and \$3.50 Pacifico and Corona Light on draft.

Mix up your March Madness routine and change your bracket luck at the newest bar on the beach. Pull up a seat at **Backyard Kitchen & Tap's** indoor/outdoor bar and watch the game of the hour with one of the craft beers on tap. When stomachs start growling, order the Baja Shrimp Ceviche or a Crab & Lobster Roll.

Where can you watch *every* March Madness Game in North Park? **True North Tavern**, that's where. True North is a top spot to catch all the games on one of the tavern's 25+ widescreens, including two 80" screens. Cheer on your favorite team with a plate of True North's almost-famous loaded tater tots and wash it all down with an ice cold beer or handcrafted cocktail.