

San Diego Happy Half Hour Podcast: Episode 127

Hillcrest gets a BBQ spot, DIY pancakes are headed to North Park, and Land & Water Co.'s chef Rob Ruiz drops in

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Sashimi at chef Rob Ruiz's upcoming restaurant Hold Fast | photo by Sam Wells

On today's episode of the Happy Half Hour we're talking To the Point, tuna fishing, Tribute Pizza, and more.

In Hot Plates, we discuss the opening of [Natural Style Chicken](#), a Hillcrest barbecue spot that's taken over the old Tokyo Ramen space; [Cesarina](#), which previously operated as a farmers' market vendor and will open in the former To The Point space in Point Loma; and Flap Your Jacks, a DIY pancake eatery coming to the heart of North Park this June.

Today's guest is [Rob Ruiz](#), the chef-owner of Carlsbad's [Land & Water Co.](#) and the upcoming Hold Fast in Liberty Station due at the end of this month. He's telling us about getting integrated into the sustainable seafood scene in Hawaii, the problem with importing seafood, and how he was [tested by the James Beard Foundation](#). Plus he explains his goal to be more "aggressively perfect" with his cooking.

Our hot topic is about [Javier Plascencia](#) opening his next restaurant in Miami (don't worry, he's still planning something for San Diego). And in Two People/\$50, we're recommending [Choice Juicery](#), [Cafe Gratitude](#), [Soda & Swine](#), [Neighborhood](#), and [Tribute Pizza](#).



The image shows a SoundCloud audio player interface. On the left is a square album art thumbnail for "San Diego Magazine HAPPY half HOUR" featuring a tomato and a bowl of food. To the right of the thumbnail is a red play button icon. The text "San Diego Magazine" is displayed above the play button, and "Ep 127: DIY pancakes are headed to North Park, and Land & Wat..." is displayed below it. In the top right corner of the player area, the SoundCloud logo and a "Share" button are visible. Below the text is a black waveform representing the audio track. In the bottom right corner of the waveform, the duration "54:00" is shown. At the very bottom left of the player area, the text "Cookie policy" is partially visible.