



## Spice Up Your Life

For two decades, SoCal aficionados of **Penzeys Spices** could only purchase their spices from the company's mail-order catalog. In the past three years, though, two Penzeys Spices stores have opened in the Southland (first in Torrance, then in Santa Monica), and what a difference it makes.

As you stroll through either one of the shops, you'll inhale the mingled aromas of more than 250 herbs, spices, and seasoning blends from countries and cultures near and far. When something intrigues you, you can read about the item's suggested uses, then take a whiff from the sniffing jar and allow your imagination to wander. Explore Germany via a waft of savory. Romance your palate with Tuscan Sunset or Krakow Nights. Sail on down to the bayou with Cajun Seasoning, now reformulated with less salt. Other tasty armchair travels begin with Maharajah-Style Curry Powder, Tsardust Memories (Russian-style seasoning), or Vietnamese Extra Fancy Cinnamon.

But don't let the exotic selection intimidate you. The Wisconsin-based family business offers products for cooks of all levels, from the young novice to the seasoned gourmet. Easy-to-follow recipes—in stores, the aforementioned catalog, and online—come from regular folks, and the friendly staff is there to encourage you, living up to the company's motto: "Love to cook, cook to love."

21301 Hawthorne Boulevard in Torrance (310-406-3877), and 1347 Fourth Street in Santa Monica (310-917-5577); [penzeys.com](http://penzeys.com). —Kathleen Guthrie