

## JUST OPENED

► What started as a mobile taco cart and catering business in June is now **Rasta Taco**—a reggae-inspired Mexican restaurant owned by **Mario Melendez** and **Mike DeSimone**. And according to Melendez, the restaurant opened to good reception on December 15. “A lot of people who go to a party [and taste our food], they look us up and now we have a restaurant, which is great,” says Melendez, born and raised in Dana Point.

With 10 employees—including Dana Hills and San Clemente High School students in the afternoons—Rasta Taco serves what Melendez calls a “couture Mexican line.” “Mike, my partner, is an exceptional chef—it’s not standard Mexican food,” says Melendez.

And the two look to open a second location

in Costa Mesa. “We’re setting up the business for franchise and licensing,” he continues. “It’s a great business: Our product is really exceptional.” Melendez adds the top orders are the Peter burritos and the Bob tacos.

26881 Camino de Estrella, Capistrano Beach, 949.496.TACO (8226), [www.rastataco.com](http://www.rastataco.com)

► There’s a new salon in town: **California Hairlines**. Owner **Homa Khani** opened the full-service salon mid-December and offers everything from skin care, manicures and pedicures to haircuts, extensions and color. “I rented a chair at Harmony Beauty Salon in Lake Forest and I decided to buy a salon,” says Khani. She is currently hiring.

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