Top 5 Burgers

New York’s got its bagels, and Maryland can claim crab cakes, but California is unquestionably the promised land when it comes to hamburgers. From pint-sized sliders in the desert to a towering triumph of toppings in Santa Monica, the state’s best burgers come in a wide range of shapes and sizes. Tyler’s, Palm Springs. Just two-inches wide, but piled high with grilled onions, these sliders are a revelation. 149 S. Indian Canyon Dr., 760-325-2990. Apple Pan, Los Angeles. A lightly grilled bun and a smoky special sauce set this classic apart. 10801 W. Pico Blvd., 310-475-3585. Father’s Office, Santa Monica. The ultimate deluxe burger, with applewood smoked bacon, caramelized onions, Gruyère and blue cheese on top. 1018 Montana Ave., 310-393-2337. Taylor’s Refresher, St. Helena. A perfect pitstop in the middle of wine country. 933 Main St., 707-963-3486. In ‘n’ Out. This Irvine-based California original still sticks to what it does best: simply delicious burgers made with the utmost attention to freshness. in-n-out.com.