

CITY SERIES: DANVILLE DEEP DIVE

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The Magazine of the East Bay

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AUGUST 2020 \$4.95



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critics' reviews

THE RESTAURANTS that appear in this section are reviewed by our panel of restaurant critics, who dine anonymously and at our expense. Due to the recent shutdown, many of the following restaurants have changed their offerings to takeout or delivery only; others have closed temporarily. Please check individual websites for the most up-to-date information.



NEW DANVILLE
Aozora

Occupying an accessible middle ground between old-school sushi joints and fancy omakase-style restaurants, Aozora offers a youthful ambience and elevated Japanese culinary experience inside the Danville Livery shopping center. You'll notice the remodeled interior and the moody music—much like owner Carol Tan's two other East Bay eateries, Akemi and Kakui. The food mostly lives up to the vibe. A chef's selection of sashimi included meltingly tender pairs of crowd-favorites hamachi, sake,

and even typically firmer maguro tuna. There are roughly 5,000 rolls from which to choose (not quite, but the list approaches 40). Fried brussels sprouts pack a serious punch with mustard sauce and a briny top layer of wispy shaved tuna bonito flakes. The tonkatsu fried pork cutlet is as tasty as it sounds and comes with miso soup, rice, slaw, and mixed tempura as part of a lunch combo. 820 Sycamore Valley Rd., Danville, (925) 272-7818, aozoradanville.com. Lunch and dinner Tues.–Sun. ¥☼ \$\$\$