

EAT

Beretta | 1199 Valencia St.

One of the early pioneers in San Francisco's popular Mission District neighborhood at Valencia Street and 23rd, Beretta has been a long-time industry favorite since opening in 2008. Dark, sexy and evocative, Beretta's restaurant and bar are where to enjoy inventive cocktails, thin crust pizzas, and contemporary Italian comfort food that is always fresh, organic and seasonal whenever possible, and sourced from local farmers. Adored by the San Francisco community and visitors to our city, we offer something for everyone, and carry many vegetarian and vegan options.



Media Noche | 3465 19th St. (across from Wildhawk, see "drink" section)

Cuban food gets the contemporary counter-serve treatment at this bright Mission spot. The food isn't meant to be strictly authentic, but modern, locavore takes on Cuban favorites, and true to the Caribbean flavors.

BONUS: Fnnch pink flamingo mural to take a picture with is right around the corner!



Foreign Cinema | 2534 Mission St.

A San Francisco Chronicle "Top 100 Restaurant" for sixteen consecutive years, Chefs Gayle Pirie and John Clark's collective visions weave food, wine, cocktails, film, and art gallery into one harmonious ambience. While the beloved brunch, flickering hearth and nightly movies continue, Gayle Pirie and John Clark are keeping things fresh at their Mission standby, with North African and Mediterranean menu leanings and a deepened wine program. It's one of the city's most romantic restaurants, with staggering decor and engaging food.



Lolinda | 2518 Mission St.

A new kind of Argentinean steakhouse that combines Latin American flavors with California sensibilities, Lolinda opened in San Francisco's Mission District in August 2012. Offering a wide range of meats cooked perfectly over the wood-fired asador (grill), as well as ceviche, empanadas, specialty dishes, and grilled skewers, Lolinda is a lively destination restaurant for group dining, dates, business dinners and celebrations, as well as a spot for locals and restaurant industry types who congregate at one of the restaurant's two full bars for expertly made nuevo (new) and clasico (classic steakhouse style) cocktails. *BONUS: there is a fun, rooftop restaurant above Lolinda called El Techo, for before or after-dinner drinks (or both!).*



Trattoria Contadina | 1800 Mason St.

Craving Italian? This family-owned restaurant is off the beaten North Beach path, and is a must try. With a wide selection of seafood, pasta, and wines, you will be feasting on some of the best Italian food in San Francisco.



Flores | 2030 Union St.

Traditional Mexican dishes and flavors, sourced from family recipes that originated in Mexican states from The Gulf, to The Pacific, are not only the inspiration—they'll be the rule. On the menu, you'll find shareable starters, salads, snacks and mains. An assortment of roasted meats available by the pound (for sharing—or not!), and small plates (think sopes, guacamole, tostadas and empanadas)

Belga | 2000 Union St.

Belga, a Belgian-inspired brasserie, serves an assortment of Belgian-, French- and German-inspired fare constructed with California sensibilities in mind. Belga also has a full bar that carries a wide range of Belgian and Belgian-inspired beers—from the classics to some of the more interesting and hard to find.



Tacolicious | Multiple Locations

The Mission's [La Taqueria](#) is probably the most well-known taqueria in SF, but in reality, it's known for its burritos. If tacos are what you're after, drop everything and make a beeline for cocktail-driven restaurant Tacolicious, which now has locations in the Marina, North Beach, the Mission, and Palo Alto. The sophisticated menu, which is inventive yet authentic, will not disappoint.

DO

De Young Museum | 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive

Located in Golden Gate Park, the De Young Museum is a fine arts museum with an awesome array of rotating exhibitions. Better yet, it's an architectural masterpiece, designed by the renowned Swiss architecture firm Herzog & de Meuron—don't miss the observation tower for some of the most incredible views you can find.

BONUS: while you're at it, pop over to the [California Academy of Sciences](#), directly across the street, for an in-house rainforest experience and lots of nature-focused sights.



Dolores Park | 19th and Dolores Streets

All good dogs go to heaven, and all good SF hipsters flock to Dolores Park. This Mission greenspace is packed with sun-soakers on bright and shiny days. Prepare to see picnickers, families, ravers, and everyone in between. Casual outdoor drinking is more or less permitted here; just be mindful.

Lyon Street Steps | 2460 Lyon St.

San Francisco is known for its picture-perfect views—the gorgeous glimpses we get as one of our energy-efficient cars crests the city's infamous hills. But there's no gain without pain, so you have to test out those sea legs and try walking uphill. Running from Cow Hollow to Pacific Heights, the Lyon Street Steps make for a challenging walk or workout that pays off gloriously with absolutely stunning views of the bay.



SFMOMA | 151 3rd St.

SFMOMA reopened on May 14, 2016, following a major three-year-long expansion project. The expansion more than doubles the museum's gallery spaces and provides almost six times as much public space as the previous building, allowing SFMOMA to showcase an expanded collection along with the Doris and Donald Fisher Collection of contemporary art. The museum's current collection includes over 33,000 works of painting, sculpture, photography, architecture, design, and media arts. They are displayed in 170,000 square feet of exhibition space, making the museum one of the largest in the United States overall, and one of the [largest](#) in the world for modern and contemporary art.





Sutro Baths | 680 Point Lobos Ave.

The ruins of a large, privately owned swimming pool complex that was built in the late 19th century, the Sutro Baths, overlooking the Pacific Ocean, are one of my favorite places to visit. Do the [Lands End](#) hike (a short one) and end there, and then go to [Cliff House](#) for a spendy lunch. Or start there and walk to the [Legion of Honor](#) for some more museum time. Don't forget to walk up to the [Lands End labyrinth](#) while you're there too.

Punchline Comedy Club | 444 Battery St.

It all started in 1978 when Punch Line San Francisco opened in what was originally a dressing room for an adjacent rock club, The Old Waldorf. Both were owned by legendary rock promoter Bill Graham, and with the help of House MC Bobby Slayton, the venue quickly established itself as a premier comedy club for both audiences and performers. Jokes can be told anywhere, but the Punch Line's dedication to the craft of comedy and the intimate setting it creates for performers and audiences, helped them become the San Francisco Examiner and San Francisco Chronicle's readers' choices for Best Comedy Club.



Patricia's Green | 300 Octavia Blvd.

Founded in 1999 along a former Central Freeway right-of-way, the small, well-maintained Patricia's Green park is one of Hayes Valley's most popular. The long, narrow park consists of two open lawns interspersed with circular plazas. The plaza contains a [rotating public art](#) from the Burning Man Festival. The park is also surrounded by many shops and restaurants making for a lively atmosphere most of the day.

BONUS: go to Miette sweet shop right in the green!



DRINK

Amelie | 1754 Polk St.

One of my all-time favorite spots in San Francisco, Amelie is a cozy French wine bar that has a delicious small menu, a top-notch cheese board, and a seriously awesome wine list. The bartenders and servers are icing on the cake, with their smooth French charm and generous knowledge of wine.



Biergarten | 424 Octavia St.

Located in Hayes Valley (my neighborhood!), a superbly charming neighborhood with lots of must-see shops, Biergarten is a traditional Bavarian-style neighborhood outdoor beer garden, serving German beer and locally sourced snacks like bratwurst and organic pretzels.

The Black Horse London Pub | 1514 Union St.

The Black Horse London Deli is by far the tiniest bar in San Francisco, and I heard once it's also the smallest west of the Mississippi. There's no refrigerator here: just a porcelain bathtub behind the bar that's filled up with ice and imported beers every day. No wine or cocktails either, but if you're lucky, one of the friendly bartenders will share a Rice Krispies treat. Everyone in this little pub knows your name, and soon enough they'll be whipping you in a game of dice, too.



Comstock Saloon | 155 Columbus Ave.

A turn-of-the-century-style saloon in North Beach, just a block and a half from the Transamerica Pyramid and bordering Chinatown, Comstock Saloon serves flawless classic cocktails. A great place to grab a drink before dinner at nearby restaurants like Cotogna, Quince, or Wayfare Tavern

Wildhawk | 3464 19th St.

Spirited, lively, and a bit bohemian, Wildhawk is another one of my favorite bars. The menu features cheeky cocktails with personality, including a range of vermouth-inspired cocktails, plus beer, wine and bar snacks to accompany your libations.



Smuggler's Cove | 650 Gough St.

This tiki-themed bar is focused on one thing: rum. Serving traditional Caribbean drinks, classic libations of Prohibition-era Havana, and exotic cocktails from legendary tiki bars, Smuggler's Cove walks the walk when it comes to tiki bars—it's not just coconuts and tribal cups.

Trick Dog | 3010 20th St.

Opened by [The Bon Vivants](#), a couple of respected cocktail consultants in the city, Trick Dog is my favorite spot to go for a cocktail while I'm waiting for a table at the nearby [Flour + Water](#)—one of my all-time favorite restaurants—or the adjacent [Central Kitchen](#), both helmed by chef Thomas McNaughton. Trick Dog is always changing up its cocktail menu to something creative (a Pantone swatch book, record sleeves, horoscopes, and now a doggie calendar), and the drinks never disappoint.



Treasury | 200 Bush St.

The Treasury is a lively, lighthearted bar located in the heart of San Francisco's Financial District. They offer delicious cocktails, craft beer, well-chosen wine, and chef-caliber bar snacks in a beautiful 1916 Beaux Arts space that feels lush, classic, and comfortable.

SHOP

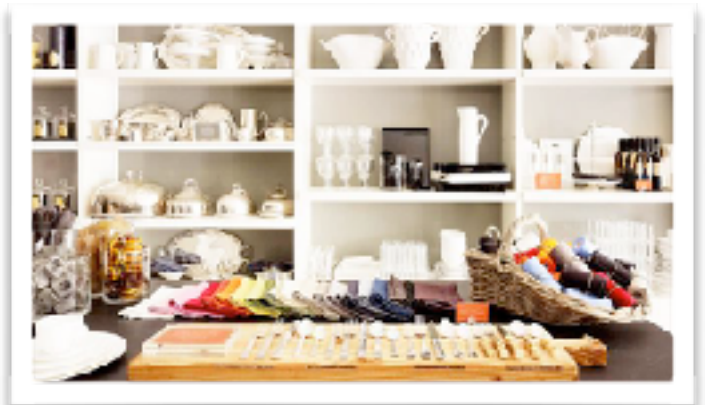


Big Daddy's Antiques | 1550 17th St.

The term "antiques store" usually brings to mind stuffy, dusty old shops in which you tiptoe in fear of breaking something valuable. Big Daddy's Antiques couldn't be farther from that image. It's both an antiques and vintage shop and a custom furniture store, and it's a magical, Alice in Wonderland-esque space brimming with custom creations made from salvaged pieces, over-the-top reproductions, and one-of-a-kind pieces. Whether or not you're in the market for home décor, it's always an inspiring and fun place to browse.

Hudson Grace | 3350 Sacramento St.

Opened by a pair of alumni from Williams-Sonoma and Restoration Hardware, Hudson Grace is a goldmine of clean, modern, and classic entertaining items like hand-dipped cathedral candles, the perfect white dinnerware, and vintage hotel silver. It's the ultimate place to shop for hostess gifts.



Hayes Valley | 488 Hayes St.

Twenty years ago, the thought of finding one of San Francisco's ultra-chic corridors in Hayes Valley would have been considered absurd. Like New York City's Times Square of old, the area, bordered by the Van Ness performing-arts district and the Western Addition around Laguna Street, was a seedy reminder for opera and symphony patrons of the city's homeless and drug problems. But over the past decades, Hayes Valley has developed into a haven for haute couture.

BONUS: Close to Miette, Blue Bottle, Patricia's Green, Biergarten, & Stacks!



SWEETS

Miette | 449 Octavia St.

Modern, cheerful, and always delicious, Miette is San Francisco's most charming pastry shop, and one of my favorite places to take guests. Their impeccable cakes are traditionally American & birthday-party perfect. A modern interpretation and the finest, unrefined ingredients available have made Miette one of the top ten pastry shops in the world, according to Conde Nast. Not in the mood for cakes? Go anyway! They have a giant collection of candies and treats that will make you swoon.



Swensen's | 1999 Hyde St.

Every hipster under the San Francisco fog will rave about [Bi-Rite Creamery](#) or [Humphrey Slocombe](#), two ice cream shops that wow with over-the-top flavors and excessive lines. But if you don't feel like wasting your day queuing for a scoop, I highly recommend Swensen's. You may recognize the name, as it's a franchise now. The original location, which first opened in 1948, is still going strong at the corner of Union and Hyde in Russian Hill, and with classic, time-tested recipes and flavors, it's definitely worth climbing the hill for.

Bob's Donuts | 1621 Polk St.

Home of the GIANT doughnut! Open since 1960, Bob's Donuts is a cornerstone of the Nob Hill neighborhood and one of the last indie doughnut shops still making their classic pastries from scratch and in-house. Open 24 hours a day, it's also a veritable dive that draws yuppies and late-night wanderers after the bars on Polk Street close at 2 a.m., as well as early risers and families in the mornings for good old-fashioned breakfast treats.



COFFEE



Sightglass Coffee | Multiple Locations

San Francisco's [Blue Bottle Coffee](#) has lots of buzz around the country, but one of the lesser-known coffee companies with standout beans to try is [Sightglass](#). Its Mission District store has a parklet out front with bike racks, so popping in and out is easy.

Blue Bottle | multiple locations, recommended 315 Linden St. (it's in a garage!)

As a coffee enthusiast in San Francisco a decade ago, Freeman recalls, it was nigh impossible to find a cup roasted the way he wanted it—which is to say, with a light touch, to set free the beans' natural flavors. Instead the city's sippers were in thrall to the dark, oily, French-press style purveyed by Peet's, a contemporary of Starbucks. Inspired by traditional Japanese siphon bars, where baristas brew each painstaking cup by hand, Freeman opened a tiny Blue Bottle kiosk in the city's Hayes Valley neighborhood in 2005.



Ritual Coffee Roasters | multiple locations, recommended 1026 Valencia St. Ritual has been a pioneer in this delicious shift in coffee consciousness since they opened their doors on Valencia Street in 2005.

IMPORTANT: Rules for staying in San Francisco

San Francisco is such a lovely city and has so much to offer, but being in a big city has its downsides. Here are a few rules of thumb to follow to make sure that you, and your belongings, are safe. I cannot stress the first two enough:

1. Don't walk with your phone in your hand - people have been known to have their phones swiped right out of their hands while walking around the city. If you're calling an Uber, looking at your map, or texting, be very aware of what is around you, and keep a tight grip on your phone. I try to step into a store, or onto a stoop, when I need to have my phone out.
2. If you are bringing a car, do not leave ANY belongings in it - whether you are parking for a few hours, or for the night, DO NOT leave anything in sight in your car. I cannot stress this enough. Phone chargers, overnight bags, ANYTHING - the chances of someone breaking in and stealing it are VERY high.
3. Stay away from the Tenderloin neighborhood at all times. If you are going to Union Square, which is a fun shopping area to spend a day, don't wander too far without looking at your map - as it is very close to the Tenderloin. The Mission is also a fun neighborhood (a lot of places on this list are in the Mission), but I would be more aware of your surroundings when walking around there at nighttime).