

The World Fantasy Convention

Local Color and Dining Guide



Introduction

San José might not have the international culinary reputation of its near neighbor, San Francisco, but it is by no means devoid of good places to eat. There are plenty of Silicon Valley employees in need of good places to go out to dinner, and they tend to have cosmopolitan tastes. Some of them are also very rich. In addition the Valley imports the brightest and best programmers from around the world, and they all bring their local cuisines with them.

This Guide will concentrate primarily on San José, and primarily on places within easy walking distance of the convention. Restaurants further away will be included if they are particularly interesting or particularly good.

Our restaurant recommendations will also be posted to our web site, complete with links to Google Maps. The site has a special interface for use on iPhones and similar devices, so you should have access to the material in this Guide from your smart phone while you are out and about in the city.

The Guide is organized primarily by cuisine. We have included not just the popular places, but also places where you can get a decent meal for a decent price. Each location is rated for cost and quality. Our rating systems are as follows:

Quality

- ★ -- Nothing special, but not awful either.
- ★★ -- Tasty, maybe only one really good thing on the menu or maybe the service isn't what it could be.
- ★★★ -- Tastier, probably better service, dependable. The kind of place you might fall in love with over time, if you had it.
- ★★★★ -- Delicious and wonderful. The kind of place you'll want to come back for after the convention is over.

Cost

- \$ -- easy on the pocketbook
- \$\$ -- inexpensive enough
- \$\$\$ -- enjoy the caviar and champagne - you've earned it
- \$\$\$\$ -- take out a mortgage before going

Other Ratings

- V -- Has a choice of vegetarian options on the menu
- VV -- Has a choice of vegan options on the menu
- VVV -- Meat eaters should avoid this one
- R -- reservation recommended (many restaurants offer online reservations – check their web sites)
- A? -- California is very strict about accessibility, but some restaurants still present challenges to people with mobility problems because they are in old buildings or get very crowded. This symbol indicates that we think the establishment is not as accessible as you might want.

Directions

These are walking directions to the establishment from the Fairmont Hotel. There are exits to both South First Street and Market, as well as onto Paseo de San Antonio, a walking plaza that runs for several blocks. All of these paths are used as starting points for directions. For locations more than a mile away, we've simply included distance for driving.

San Pedro Square

If you are one of those people who has trouble making up your mind, your best bet is to wander down to San Pedro Square. This small neighborhood lists 18 different restaurants on their web site [www.sanpedrosquare.com], with a wide range of cuisines and price levels.

Comments

To help you make up your mind where to eat we have also included comments from our brave testers who have selflessly been eating their way around the city to help in the creation of this Guide. Anything that begins "XXX says" is a personal opinion given by one of our testers. Those responsible are listed in the back of the Guide.

American

(See also BBQ section.)

71 St. Peter

www.71saintpeter.com

71 N San Pedro Street, San José, CA 95110

408.971.8523

Lunch: Mon-Fri 11:30 AM. Dinner: Mon-Sat 5:00 PM

Has a private room that can hold up to 22 people if you want to arrange a large dinner gathering.

Rating: ★★ \$\$\$ V

Take South Market Street north, turn left on Santa Clara Street, then right onto San Pedro 0.4 miles

Cheryl says: "They had a reasonable selection of bottled Belgian beers last time I ate there."

Agenda Restaurant

www.agendarestaurant.com

399 S. First Street, San José, CA

408.287.3991

Wed-Thu. 5:30 PM - 2:00 AM, Fri-Sat. 5:30 PM - 2:00 AM, Sun. 9:00 PM - 2:00 AM

This used to be a nightclub called Marsugi's back in the late 1980s. Nirvana

played here to an audience of about 50 people total!

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$ \$ V A?

Head South on South First Street. It's on the right. 0.3 miles

Chris says: "The Syrah Short Ribs are really good. They almost make me forget that this place was once a Mecca for live music!"

Arcadia Restaurant

www.michaelmina.net/mm_arcadia/

100 W San Carlos St., San José, CA 95113

408.278.4555

6:30 AM - 11:30 AM, and 11:30 AM-2PM Daily, 5:30 PM - 10PM Tues-Sat

The Marriott's restaurant is run by Daniel Patino who has a good reputation in the South Bay for his food.

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ \$ \$ \$ \$

Head south on S Market Street, turn right on West San Carlos. 0.2 miles

Chris says: "Do not miss the duck fat fries or lobster corn dog!!!"

Billy Berk's

www.maxsworld.com/billyberks

99 S 1st St., San José, CA 95113

408.292.4300

Mon - Wed. 11:30 PM - 10:00 PM; Thu. 11:30 PM - 11:00 PM; Fri. 11:30 PM - 12:00 AM; Sat. 4:00 PM - 12:00 PM; Sun. 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM

This is a bar that happens to have great food.

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$ \$

Walk down South First Street, cross San Fernando and it's on your left. 0.15 miles

Chris says: "The best value you'll find in all of Downtown is the Mac 'n' Cheese appetizer. It's awesome, just the right size and delicious!"

The Blue Chip

www.thebluechipsj.com

325 S 1st St., San José, CA 95113

408.971.2898

Mon-Thu. 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM; Fri. 11:00 AM - 11:00 PM; Sat. 9:00 AM - 11:00 PM; Sun. 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM

A sports bar that has an entire menu of cheesesteaks.

Rating: ★ ★ \$

Directions- Take First Street south, cross San Carlos, walk about 1/2 a block 0.25 miles

Chris says: "I have to say that I love the pizza cheesesteak. It's not traditional, but it's tasty."

Cafe San José

www.cafesanjose.com

1583A Meridian Ave., San José, CA 95125

408.265.3020

7AM - 3PM, Daily

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$

3.6 miles by car.

Chris says: "The breakfasts are some of the best around."

Spring says: "They have a vegetarian Eggs Benedict."

Denny's

www.dennys.com

1390 South First Street, San José, CA

408-292-6217

1490 North First Street, San José, CA

408.453.1497

Well there had to be one somewhere in the city, didn't there. These are the nearest.

Rating: ★ \$V

1.4 miles south on South First Street. Alternatively, hop on light rail northbound and ride about 2.5 miles north to Gish Station; it's on the right side from the direction the train is going. This is probably faster than walking to the South First location.

Eulipia

www.eulipia.com

374 S 1st St., San José, CA 95113

408.280.6161

Tues-Sat: 5:30-10PM; Sun: 4:30-9PM

Rating: ★ ★ \$\$\$

Take North First Street south about 2 blocks. It's on the right hand side. 0.35 miles

Chris says: "It's not like the food is bad, it's just nothing above average and the price is fairly high."

Firehouse No. 1 Bar & Grill

www.firehouse1.com

69 N San Pedro St., San José, CA 95110

408.287.6969

Mon-Fri. 11:30 AM - 2:00 AM; Sat. 3:30 PM - 2:00 AM; Sun. 6:00 PM - 2:00 AM

Another bar with good food.

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$

Take South Market Street north, turn left on Santa Clara Street, then right onto San Pedro 0.4 miles

Chris says: "The place gets crowded and loud and the service can be slow, but the drinks and the food make it worth visiting."

Flames Eatery & Bar

www.flameseatery.com

88 S 4th St., San José, CA 95112

408.971.1960

7:00 AM - Midnight, Daily

This place has gigantic portions and a huge and varied breakfast menu.

Rating: ★★ \$\$\$ V

Directions- Take South First Street north to San Fernando, turn right, then right onto Fourth Street. It's on the right hand side. 0.4 miles

Chris says: "They have Potato Skins Benedict. I'm not lying."

Fountain Restaurant

[www.fairmont.com/sanjose/](http://www.fairmont.com/sanjose/GuestServices/Restaurants/FountainRestaurant.htm)

[GuestServices/Restaurants/](http://www.fairmont.com/sanjose/GuestServices/Restaurants/FountainRestaurant.htm)

[FountainRestaurant.htm](http://www.fairmont.com/sanjose/GuestServices/Restaurants/FountainRestaurant.htm)

172 S. Market Street (in the Fairmont Hotel), San José, CA 95113

408.998.3982

Breakfast: Mon-Fri: 6:30 AM - 11:00

AM; Sat - Sun: 7:00 AM - 11:00 AM.

Lunch: Mon-Fri: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM;

Sat-Sun: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Brunch:

Sundays: 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM

One of the Fairmont's several restaurants.

Rating: ★★ \$\$\$ RV

It's in the Fairmont!

Fast Food Near Downtown

Baja Fresh -- 150 S. First Street, San José, CA

Ben & Jerry's -- 115 San Carlos, Street, San José, CA

Chinese Gournet Express -- 150, South First St. Suite 111, San José, CA

Chipotle -- 975 The Alameda, San José, CA

Happi House -- 695 North Fourth, Street, San José, CA

Jack in the Box -- 1558 West San Carlos St., San José, CA

Johnny Rockets -- 105 South First Street, San José, CA

McDonald's -- 1398 West San Carlos St., San José, CA

Pinkberry -- 368 Santana Row, San José, CA

Pizza My Heart -- 117 East San Carlos St., San José, CA

Quiznos -- 150 South First Street Suite 181, San José, CA

Quiznos -- 754 The Alameda, San José, CA

Subway -- 475 East San Carlos St., San José, CA

Subway -- 165 San Fernando St., San José, CA

Subway -- 103 East Santa Clara St., San José, CA

Gordon Biersch

www.gordonbiersch.com

33 East San Fernando Street, San Jose, CA 95113

408-294-6785

Sun-Wed: 11:30 AM - 11:00 PM; Thurs: 11:30 AM – Midnight; Fri-Sat: 11:30 AM - 2:00 AM

National chain of brewery-restaurants originally started in the Bay Area

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$\$

North on First Street one block, then cross San Fernando Street and turn right. The restaurant is visible from the Fairmont's "back door" on First Street across the parking lot at Second and San Fernando Streets.

Chris says: "I'm not as fond of their beer as I am of their food."

Kevin says: "I like this place, and I don't even drink alcohol. Their garlic fries are a Bay Area standard."

Cheryl says: "The beer's OK, and the garlic fries are a legend at sports grounds all around the BayArea."

Linda says: "Unlike most West Coast Brewpubs, they do German-style rather than British-style beers. I go there every December for their Holiday Bock, but the food's declined as the chain got bigger. Not bad, but nothing special."

The Grill on the Alley

www.thegrill.com/location677d.html?subsections_id=50

172 S. Market Street (in the Fairmont Hotel), San José, CA 95113

408.294.2244

Mon-Thu: 11:30 AM-10:00 PM, Fri: 11:30 AM-11:00 PM; Sat: 5:00 PM-11:00PM;

Sun: 5:00 PM-9:00 PM

Another one of the Fairmont's several restaurants.

Rating: ★ ★ \$\$\$

It's in the Fairmont!

Chris says: "The bartenders are fantastic, have them make you a perfect martini."

Linda says: "Per the Fairmont: "Reflecting the spirit of a New York grill" - and the prices."

Mission Ale House

www.missionalehouse.com

97 E. Santa Clara St., San José, 95113

408.292.4058

Mon - Sat 11:00 AM -2:00 AM

Lots of beer, but also often has live music. Kitchen is currently closed.

Rating: ★ ★ \$

Take South First Street north, turn right at Santa Clara Street. It's on the Left. 0.45 miles

Cheryl says: "24 beers on tap, but most of them big name breweries, and almost

nothing bottled. Despite its advertising, this place will probably disappoint serious beer drinkers."

Morton's Steakhouse

www.mortons.com

177 Park Avenue, Suite 100, San José, CA 95113

408.947.7000

Mon - Thu: 5:30 PM - 10:00 PM; Fri: 5:30 PM - 11:00 PM; Sat: 5:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Rating - ★★★★★ \$\$\$

Exit Fairmont onto Plaza de Caesar Chavez, cross Market Street and then the park, cross Market again and get onto Park Avenue. Morton's will be on your right. 0.1 Miles

Linda says: "A great place if someone else is paying for it and you like beef."

Naglee Park Garage

505 E San Carlos St., San José, CA 95112

408.286.1100

Tue - Thu: 5:00 PM to 9:30 PM; Fri: 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM; Sat. (Dinner): 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM; Sun: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

A favorite hang-out of the local college kids.

Rating: ★★★ \$

Take South First Street south to San Carlos and turn left. Take San Carlos through San José State University, then out of the campus and across 10th street. Naglee Park Garage is on the left. 1.0 miles

Chris says: "The portions are so-so, but the food is pretty tasty, especially the Maple Lacquered Cornish Game Hen."

Peggy Sue's

www.peggysues.com

29 North San Pedro St., San José, 95113

408.298.6750

and

183 Park Avenue, San José 95113

408.294.0252

10:00 AM to 10:00 PM

A classic American diner, just like they were back in the '50s.

Rating: ★★ \$\$

To San Pedro branch: Head North on Market Street to Santa Clara, Turn left then left onto San Pedro, it's on the left hand side. 0.35 miles.

For Park Avenue: Exit Fairmont onto Paseo de San Antonio, cross Market Street and then the park, cross Market again and get onto Park Avenue. It's on the right. 0.25 miles.

Chris says: "They do a fine Chicken Fried Steak breakfast."

Kevin says: "A good place for a quick cooked breakfast without paying hotel restaurant prices."

San José Museum of Art Cafe Too!

www.sjmusart.org/content/visitUs/cafe/cafe.phtml

110 South Market St., San José, CA 95113

408.277.0557

Tue - Sun: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Soup, salads and sandwiches are what you get here.

Rating: ★★ \$\$

Take Market Street down about 100 yards. It's on the right hand side.

Chris says: "The Chef Salad isn't bad, and the Fire-Roasted Vegetable Sandwich is also worthy of above-the-title billing."

Sonoma Chicken Coop

www.sonomachickencoop.com

31 N. Market St., San José, CA, 95113

408.287.4098

Sun-Thu: 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM; Fri-Sat: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM

This is a family favorite around these parts. The portions are big, the food is reliable and the value for money is pretty high.

Rating: ★★★ \$\$

Head North on Market Street to Santa Clara, Turn left then left onto San Pedro, it's on the right hand side. 0.35 miles

Chris says: "The Banana Phyllo Sundae has at least two epic poems written about it, while the Bourbon Bread Pudding leads its own religion."

Asian Fusion

Dandelion Vegetarian Café

www.dandelionvegetariancafe.com

322 E. Santa Clara Street, San José, CA 95113

408.288.6788

Tues-Sun 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Rating: ★ \$VVV

North on First Street, right on East Santa Clara Street; about 0.7 miles.

E & O Trading Company

www.eotrading.com

96 South First Street, San José, CA 95113

408.938.4100

Mon - Thu: 11:30 AM - 10:00 PM; Fri: 11:30 AM - 10:30 PM; Sat: 5:00 PM - 10:30 PM; Sun: 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$\$

Take First Street north across San Fernando. It's on the right. 0.1 miles

Linda says: "I've eaten here and at the San Francisco branch: take a small group so you can sample more dishes."

P.F. Chang's

www.pfchangs.com

98 South 2nd St., San José, CA 95113

408.961.5250

Mon-Fri: 11:00 AM - 11:00 PM; Sat: 11:00 AM - Midnight; Sun: 11:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Chain fusion restaurant. Gluten free.

Rating: ★ ★ \$\$

Take First Street south to San Fernando, turn right and then left onto 2nd. It's on your right. 0.15 Miles

Chris says: "The menu isn't big, but they are very accommodating if you have special orders."

Vegetarian House

www.vegetarianhouse.us

520 E Santa Clara Street, San José, CA 95112

408.292.3798

Mon-Fri: Lunch 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM; Dinner 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Sat-Sun: 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Menu is entirely vegan organic.

Rating: ★ ★ \$\$\$ VVV

North on First Street, right on East Santa Clara Street. Near corner of 12th and Santa Clara. About 1 mile.

BBQ

Henry's World Famous Hi-Life

www.henryshilife.com

301 W St John St., San José, CA 95110

408.295.5414

4:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Daily

A local landmark.

Rating: ★ ★ \$\$\$ A?

Head north on South Market then turn left onto San Fernando. Take that to Almaden Blvd., where you'll turn right. It turns into San Teresa, but keep going until you get to N. Almaden, where you turn left. Keep on going and you'll end up at St. John Street. It's on the left. 0.6 miles

Cheryl says: "Visitors to the USA should check this out. It feels like it has been around since California was settled."

JC's Famous BBQ

1080 Saratoga Ave. Suite 8, San José, CA 95128
408.246.2147

Mon – Sat: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$

6.1 miles by car.

Chris says: "The beef ribs are huge and I can't say enough about how tasty and filling they are."

Sam's Bar-B-Que

www.samsbbq.com

1110 South Bascom Ave., San José, CA, 95128
408.297.9151

11:00 AM – 9:00 PM, Daily

Rating: ★ ★ \$\$

3.9 miles by car

Chris says: "The best ribs in the South Bay."

British

Britannia Arms

www.britanniaarmsdowntown.com

173 West Santa Clara St., San José, CA 95113
408.278.1400

11:00 AM – 1:30 AM, Daily

The Britannia has a few locations around San José. This is the closest and probably the loudest. They do karaoke.

Rating: ★ \$\$\$

Take South Market north to Santa Clara Street. Turn left, then head down about 4 blocks. It's on the right. 0.4 miles

Cheryl says: "An American bar in Theme Park Britain drag. Useful if you absolutely must catch a live football (soccer) game."

Trials Pub

www.trialspub.com

265 North First Street, San José, CA 95113
408.947.0497

From 5:00 PM Daily

Trials is a serious attempt at recreating the British pub in California. It even serves beer in Imperial pints.

Rating: ★ ★ \$\$ V

Take First Street north several blocks. It's on the left, just beyond St. James Park. 0.5 miles

Cheryl says: "Home from home for British visitors. It has a decent beer selection and quite good whisky too."

Cajun/Creole

Gumbo Jumbo

www.gumbojumbo.net

80 North Market St., San José, CA 95113

408.29.GUMBO

Mon - Fri: 5:30 PM to 10:00 PM; Sat: 3:00 PM to Midnight; Sun: 3:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$ V

Head north down South Market. It's 3 or so blocks down on your right. 0.35 miles

Chris says: "They make a Jambalaya burrito. No, I'm not kidding. It's awesome."

Poor House Bistro

www.poorhousebistro.com

91 Autumn St., San José, CA 95110

408.292.5837

Mon - Thu: 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM; Fri-Sat: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM; Sun: 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM

The menu is large and full of wonderful po'boys and Cajun favorites. You can also get a Muffaletta, a rarity in this part of the country. There is also a Sunday brunch, from 10 AM until 2 PM.

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$

Take Market Street north to San Fernando. Turn left. Continue on a fair ways until Autumn Street. It's on your right. 0.7 miles.

Cambodian

Chez Sovan

923 Oakland Rd, San José, CA 95112

408.287.7619

Mon-Fri: 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM

If you haven't had Cambodian food, you're missing out.

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$

2.6 miles by car

Chris says: "More coconut milk per square inch than anywhere else in the state."

Chinese

(See also Asian fusion section.)

Bo Town

409 South First St., San José, CA 95113

408.295.2125

Mon-Sun. 11:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Rating: ★ \$

Take South First Street south. It's on the right. 0.3 Miles

Cathay Restaurant

1339 North First St., San José, CA 95112

408.453.8148

4:30 PM – 10:00 PM, Daily

Rating: ★ \$\$

Take First Street north about half-a-mile. 0.5 miles

Chef P's

22 N Jackson Ave., San José, CA 95116

408.729.4373

10:00 AM – 9:30 PM, Daily

Rating: ★ \$

1.2 miles by car

Chris says: "Beware: they use MSG"

China Chen

400 South 3rd St., San José, CA 95112

408.294.2525

9:00 AM – 9:00 PM, Daily

Noodle soup is the specialty of China Chen.

Rating: ★ ★ \$\$

Take South Market Street south to San Salvador. Turn left and keep going until you reach 3rd Street. 0.5 miles

China Garden

www.chinagardensj.com

1890 West San Carlos St., San José, CA 95128

408.293.3149

Mon - Sat: 11:30 AM – 9:30 PM; 4:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Rating: ★ \$

Take Market Street south to San Carlos. Turn right. 0.2 miles

Chris says: "The Hot Pots are the best thing on the menu."

China Wok Restaurant

chinawoksanjose.eat24hour.com

9 North Market St., San José, CA 95113

408.280.6688

11:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Delivers in downtown San Jose (minimum order \$30, can order online)

Rating: ★★ \$V

Head North up Market Street. It's on the right. 0.3 miles

Edna Ray Chinese Restaurant

www.ednaray.com

1181 Lincoln Ave., San José, CA

408.280.7738

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM - 9:30 PM Daily

The family dinners are a good bargain.

Rating: ★★★ \$\$\$ (Family dinners - \$\$)

Distance - 2.4 miles by car

Chris says: "If you've never had Hot & Sour Seafood Soup, this is the place to start your love affair with it."

Hunan Taste

www.hunantaste.net

998 N 4th St., San José, CA 95112

408.295.1186

Mon – Sat: 11:00 AM - 8:30 PM

Rating: ★★★ \$\$

Take South First Street north to San Fernando, turn right and head to Fourth Street and turn left. It's on the left. 0.5 miles

Chris says: "The seafood menu is diverse and people rave about it. Also, can you think of another place that does Polish Sausage Hunan-style?"

Pagoda Restaurant

www.fairmont.com/sanjose/GuestServices/Restaurants/PagodaRestaurant-BambooLounge.htm

172 S. Market Street (in the Fairmont Hotel), San José, CA 95113

408.294.2244

Tues- Sat: 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Another of the Fairmont's several restaurants

Rating: ★★ \$\$\$

It's in the Fairmont

Taiwan Restaurant

www.taiwanrestaurantsj.com

1306 Lincoln Avenue, San José, CA 95125

408.289.8800

11:30 AM – 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM Daily

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$

2.6 miles by car

Chris says: "Lots of stuff you're not likely to find at other Chinese places."

Ume Chinese Restaurant

2595 North First St., San José, CA 95131

408.433.3333

Rating: ★ \$

Take South First Street north for about half-a-mile. 0.5 miles

Cuban

Habana Cuba

www.998cuba.com 238 Race St., San José, CA 95126

408.988.2822

Tue-Thu. 11:00 AM - 2:30 PM and 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM; Fri. 11:00 AM - 2:30 PM; 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM; Sat. 4:00 PM - 10:00 PM; Sun. 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$\$

1.5 miles by car

Chris says: "The Bistec Empanizado is delicious and traditional."

Los Cubanitos Restaurant

www.loscubanitosrestaurant.com

22 North Almaden Ave., San Pedro Square, San José, CA 95110

408.279.0134

Mon. 11:00 AM - 2:30 PM; Tue-Thu. 11:00 AM - 2:30 PM and 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM; Fri. 11:00 AM - 2:30 PM and 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM; Sat. 12:00 PM - 10:00 PM; Sun. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM

If you're used to authentic Cuban food, you will feel right at home.

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ \$\$\$

Take South Market north to Santa Clara, then turn left. Continue down to Almaden Rd. and turn right. It's on the right. 0.4 Miles

Chris says: "The Vaca Frita is great, with just enough garlic to make it a savory delight. There are Brazilian Entrees on the menu, including Virado a Paulista Tutu, which is a pork dish that piles deep and mystical flavors on top of each other. Some of the best food you'll find in San José."

SJ Attractions Nearby with Food Available!

Camera 12 Theatres- 201 South Second Street featuring Movie Food!

ComedySportz San Jose at the Camera 3- 288 South Second Street featuring Cafe Too!

www.comedysportzsanjose.com

History San Jose- 1650 Senter Road featuring The Museum Cafe in O'Brien's Candy Shop.
www.historysanjose.org

San Jose Museum of Art- 110 South Market Street, San Jose. Fine Art Museum featuring San Jose Museum of Art Cafe Too!
www.sjmusart.org

The Tech Museum of Innovation, 201 South Market Street featuring The Cafe.
www.thetech.org

The Winchester Mystery House- 525 South Winchester Blvd. featuring Sarah's Cafe.
winchestermysteryhouse.com

Ethiopian

Ghion Ethiopian Restaurant

1015 Park Ave., San José, CA 95126
408.298.8681

Rating: ★ ★ \$\$\$ V

1.2 miles by car

Chris says: "It's a favorite of the local Ethiopian population."

The Lunch Box

1876 West San Carlos St., San José, CA 95128

408.287.3511

9:00 AM – 9:00 PM Daily

The Lunch Box is a strange name for an Ethiopian place, but they haven't watered down their food to match the name.

Rating: ★ ★ \$

2.8 Miles by Car

Chris says: "I've been there six or seven times and I've been the only non-Ethiopian eating at the time at least three of those times."

Mudai Ethiopian

www.mudairestaurant.com

503 West San Carlos St., San José, CA 95126

408.292.2282

11:00 AM – 10:00 PM Daily

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ \$\$\$ V

Take South Market Street south to San Carlos and turn right. Continue on for quite a ways. It's on your right. 0.8 miles

Chris says: "It gets a bit crowded, so come either before 6 or after 9."

Rea Sea Restaurant

684 North First St., San José, CA 95112

408.993.1990

Mon – Fri: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM and 5:00 – 9:00 PM; Sat: Noon – 9:00 PM

Rating: ★ ★ \$\$\$

1.3 miles by car

Rehoboth Ethiopian Cafe and Restaurant

www.caferehoboth.com

655 N 6th St., San José, CA 95112

408.947.1717

Tue-Thu: 11:30 AM – 9:00 PM; Fri: 11:30 AM – 10:00 PM; Sat: Noon to 10:00 PM;

Sunday: 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$\$ V

1.6 miles by car

Chris says: “If you can afford it, spring for the Mesob. You will find that it’s worth every one of the 5000 pennies it’ll cost you for a fine family-style combination. You may want to try the Yebeg Alichu Fitfit, which sounds like the name of a Jedi Knight but is actually delightful lamb cooked with ginger, garlic and onion.”

French

Emile’s Restaurant

www.emilesrestaurant.com

545 S 2nd St., San José, CA 95112

408 289 1960

Tues-Thurs: 5:30 PM to 10 PM; Friday – Saturday: 5:30 PM to 11:00 PM

Review: ★ ★ ★ ★ \$\$\$ R

Take South First street south to West William Street, turn left, then turn right on South Second Street. It’ll be on the left. 0.5 miles.

Chris says: “The duck a l’orange has gotten rave reviews for ages.”

La Foret

www.laforetrestaurant.com

21747 Bertram Rd., San José, CA 95120

408.997.3458

Tue - Sat: 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM; Sun: 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM and 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ \$\$\$ R

11.6 miles by car

Chris says: “It’s fancy, serving fantastic, fancified food at extremely fancified prices.”

Le Papillon

www.lepapillon.com

410 Saratoga Avenue, San José, CA 95129

408.296.3730

Mon: 5:00 PM – 9:30 PM; Tues-Wed: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM – 9:30 PM; Thurs - Fri: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM; Sat – Sun: 5:00 PM – 9:30 PM

One of the few places you'll find around San José that do venison.

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ \$\$\$\$+ R

5.0 miles by car

Chris says: "It's one of the few places I'm willing to put a tie on to get to enter."

German

Gunther's Restaurant and Catering

www.guntherscatering.com

1601 Meridian Ave., San José, CA 95125

408.266.9022

Mon -Thurs 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Fri 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM, Sat 7:00 AM – 2:00 PM

A nice little Mom and Pop place that provides an enjoyable, highly casual meal.

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$ \$

3.6 miles by car

Chris says: "The strudel is exceptional."

Harry's Hofbrau

www.harryshofbrau.com

390 Saratoga Ave., San José, CA 95129

408.243.0434

11:00 AM – 9:00 PM Daily

A local Bay Area chain.

Rating : ★ ★ ★ \$ \$

4.9 miles by car

Chris says: "I highly recommend the Reuben, or the Roast Beef."

Teske's Germania Restaurant, Bar and Beer Garden

www.teskes-germania.com

255 N. 1st St., San José, CA 95113

408.292.0291

Tue - Fri: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM - 9:30 PM; Sat: 5:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$ \$

Take First Street north several blocks. It's on the left, just beyond St. James Park.
0.6 miles

Chris says: "The Jagerschnitzel with Spatzle is probably the best I've had outside of Wisconsin, and Rindsrolade is very tasty."

Greek

The Castle Greek Cafe

3730 North 1st Street Suite 150, San José, CA 95134

408.456.0346

Rating: ★ ★ \$

Take First Street north for a few blocks. It's on your right. 0.4 miles

Chris says: "This place gets crowded at lunch time."

Opa!

www.opawillowglen.com

1384 Lincoln Ave., San José, CA 95125

408 998 8704

11:00 AM – 11:00 PM, Daily

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$

2.0 miles by car.

Chris says: "The dips and spreads here are worth of an exclamation point, while the Pork Souvlaki Pita is worthy of !!! If you like dessert, try the fruit souvlaki which is skewered fruit with nutella, raspberry and caramel. It's delicious."

The Pita Pit

www.getpitas.com

151 S. Second Street, Suite 185, San José, CA 95113

408.694.3200

Mon - Wed. 9:30 AM - 12:00 AM, Thu - Fri. 9:30 AM - 3:00 AM, Sat. 11:00 AM - 3:00 AM, Sun. 11:00 AM - 12:00 AM

Yes, you can get a pita at 2:30 in the morning. They also deliver in downtown.

Rating: ★ ★ \$VV

Exit onto Paseo de San Antonio, cross First Street, pass through the Paseo de San Antonio, turn left on Second Street. It's on the left hand side. 0.2 miles

Taza Bistro

www.tazabistro.com

1 N. First St., San José, CA 95106

408.292.8292

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$

Take First Street north until you come to St. James Street. It's on the right side. 0.2 Miles

Chris says: "The Falafel Supremo is filling and managed to make me, despite 33 years of conditioning, enjoy falafel."

Hawaiian

Hawaiian Drive Inn

www.hawaiiandriveinn.com 304 E. Santa Clara St., Suite B, San José, CA 95113
408.275.9888

7:00 AM - 9:00 PM, Daily

Rating: ★ ★ \$

Take Market Street to Santa Clara. Turn right and continue a few blocks. It's on the right. 0.5 miles

Hukilau

www.dahukilau.com

230 Jackson St., San José, CA 95112
408.279.4888

Tue - Wed. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM, Thu-Fri. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM, and 5:00 PM - 11:00 PM, Sat. 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM - 11:00 PM, Sun. 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$

1.5 miles by Car

Chris says: "The reasons to go here are decent drinks made by very nice bartenders, an excellent Hawaiian Burrito and the Kalua Pork Cheese Fries."

Indian

Silk Road Bistro

87 E. San Fernando St., San José, CA 95113
408.286.3969

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$

Walk up Market Street north and then turn left on to San Fernando. It's on the right. 0.2 miles

Neil says: "This place is highly uneven. They've got a lot more during the week; the weekend is strange, less impressive."

Tandoori Oven

www.thetandoorioven.com

150 South First St., San José, CA 95113
408.292.7222

11:30 AM - 9:30 PM, Daily

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ \$\$V

Go out the First Street doors and walk across the street. You're there! Less than 100 yards.

Neil says: "It's the place I take my Indian friends when they visit."

Kevin says: "Quick and tasty, either to dine in or take out."

Spring says: "Lots of options for Vegetarians."

Irish

Lowry's Irish Coffee House

350 W. Julian St., San José, CA 95110

408.993.9356

Mon-Fri. 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM, Sat. 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Rating: ★ ★ \$

1.1 Miles by car – or walking: North on Market Street, left on West Santa Clara Street, right on San Teresa Street after passing the De Anza Hotel, left on North Almaden Avenue, cross under the freeway and bear right on Almaden, then left at West Julian Street. About 0.8 miles.

Chris says: "An inexpensive place to sit down and enjoy a fine cup of coffee."

Italian

(See also the separate Pizza section)

Antonella Ristorante

www.antonellasristorante.com

1701 Park Ave., San José, CA 95126

408.279.4922

Mon – Fri: 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM; Sat – Sun: 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM and 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Rating: ★ ★ \$\$\$

2.5 miles by car

Bella Mia

www.bellamia.com

58 South First St., San José, CA 95113

408.280.1993

Mon - Thu: 11:30 AM - 9 PM; Fri: 11:30 AM - 10 PM; Sat: 4 PM - 10 PM; Sun: 4:30 PM - 8 PM

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$\$

Head north up First Street a couple of blocks. It's on the right. 0.1 miles

Chris says: "The Cioppino is the best thing on the menu."

Il Fornaio

www.ilfornaio.com

302 South Market St., San José, CA 95113

408.271.3366

Mon - Thu: 7:00 AM - 10:30 AM and 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM; Fri: 7:00 AM - 10:30 AM and 11:30 AM – Midnight; Sat: 8:00 AM-Midnight; Sunday 8:00 AM – 11:

Bring You Friends: Good Eats for Groups

Billy Berk's - 99 South First St.

The Blue Chip - 325 South First St.

Britannia Arms - 173 West Santa Clara St.

House of Siam - 151 South Second St.

Hukilau - 230 Jackson St.

Il Fornaio - 302 South Market St.

Kazoo Restaurant - 250 East Jackson St.

Menara Moroccan Restaurant - 41 East Gish Rd.

Naglee Park Garage - 505 East San Carlos Blvd.

P.F. Chang's- 98 South Second St.

Pizz'a Chicago - 155 West San Fernando St.

Red Sea Restaurant - 684 North First St.

Sonoma Chicken Coop - 31 North Market St.

Tandoori Oven - 150 South First St.

00 PM.

Part of a chain.

Rating: ★★★★★ \$\$\$

Walk south down Market Street a couple of blocks. It's on the left hand corner, in the Sainte Claire Hotel. 0.2 miles

Cheryl says "Serves zabaione, which sadly far too few Italian restaurants do."

La Pastaia Ristorante

www.lapastaia.com

Hotel De Anza, 233 West Santa Clara St., San José, CA 95113

408.286.8686

Mon-Thu:: 6:30AM - 10AM and 11AM - 3PM and 5PM - 9PM; Fri - Sun: 7AM - 2PM, 5PM - 10PM

Located in the beautiful old hotel De Anza.

Rating: ★★★ \$\$\$

Take Market Street north to Santa Clara, turn left and head down a few blocks. It's on the left in the Hotel DeAnza. 0.4 miles

Chris says: "The carpaccio is delicious with lovely fried shallots as a marvelous counter-point."

Old Spaghetti Factory

www.osf.com

51 N. San Pedro, San José, CA 95110
408.288.7488

Lunch: Mon-Fri: 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM.
Dinner: Mon-Thu: 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM;
Fri: 5:00 PM - 11:00 PM; Sat: 12:00 PM - 11:00 PM; Sun: 12:00 PM - 10:00 PM.

A major national chain.

Rating: ★★ \$\$

Take South Market Street north, turn left on Santa Clara Street, then right onto San Pedro 0.4 miles

Cheryl says: "Almost all of our US

members will have eaten at one of these. Non-US visitors, just ask someone about it.”

Original Joe's

www.originaljoes.com

301 South First St., San José, CA 95113

408.292.7030

11:00 AM – 1:00 AM Daily

Rating: ★★ \$\$\$

Take South First street south. It's on the corner of San Carlos and First on the right. 0.1 miles.

Chris says: “It's dependably average, though you'll get a miracle once in a while. The service here is the real treat. It's like those restaurants you see in movies made in the 1990s about the 1950s!”

Linda says: “It's actually the second Original Joe's, but it's been here since 1956, which is virtually forever for San Jose. It still has a lot of old-fashioned entrees such as sweetbreads and several liver dishes. A few vegetarian entries,”

Paolo's Restaurant

www.paolos.com

333 W. San Carlos St., Suite 150, San José, CA 95110

Mon - Fri. 7:30 AM - 10:00 PM, Sat. 5:30 PM - 10:00 PM

They've been around in one form or another for 50 years.

Rating: ★★★★★ \$\$\$

Take South Market to San Carlos, turn right and on towards morning. 0.5 miles.

Chris says: “The Prawns in White Wine Sauce I had the last time I was there was fantastic. I mean truly fantastic, though I came back to reality when I got the check.”

Siena Bistro

www.sienabistro.com

1359 Lincoln Ave., San José, CA 95125

408.271.0837

Tue - Thu: 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM and 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Fri: 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM and 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM, Sat - Sun: 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Rating: ★★ ★ \$\$\$

2.0 miles by car

Chris says: “Great food, poor sound design: it's not easy to have a good long conversation here.”

Vin Santo Ristorante

www.vin-santo.com

1346 Lincoln Ave., San José, CA 95125

408.920.2508

Tues: 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM; Wed-Fri: 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM;
Sat: 5:00 PM - 11:00 PM, Sun: 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ \$\$\$

1.7 miles by car

Chris says: "A lovely place to go for seafood. Cioppino, whole sea bass, Cernia Mediterranean and a lovely swordfish are all highlights."

Japanese

(See also Asian fusion section.)

Bamboo Sushi

<http://www.fairmont.com/sanjose/GuestServices/Restaurants/BambooSushi.htm>

172 S. Market Street (in the Fairmont Hotel), San José, CA 95113

408.294.2244

Mon-Sat: 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

The Fairmont has a sushi cart serving the Lobby Lounge. Sake is available too.

Rating: ??

It's in the Fairmont!

Ninja Star Sushi Bar

www.ninjastarsushi.com/Welcome.html

130 East Santa Clara St., San José, CA 95113

408.297.0568

Mon - Sat: 11:00 AM - 9:30 PM

Used to be called Godzilla Express, which sounded much more fun

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$\$

Take South Market to Santa Clara Street and turn right. It is a few blocks down on the left. 0.5 miles.

Gombe Japanese Restaurant

193 Jackson St., San José, CA 95112

408.279.4311

Mon - Sat: 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM and 5:00 PM - 9:30 PM

This place is old school: cash only and no website.

Rating: ★ ★ \$\$\$

1.1 Miles by car, or take light rail north to the Japantown/Ayer stop, then walk north on North First Street one block, then turn right on Jackson Street.

Kaita Restaurant

408.287.5551

Mon - Sat: 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Rating: ★ ★ \$\$

1.1 miles by car , or take light rail north to the Japantown/Ayer stop, then walk north on North First Street one block, then turn right on Jackson Street.

Chris says: "You don't go to Kaita for the complex rolls that so many places have started to specialize in, but you go for very fresh fish rolled expertly and presented simply."

Kazoo Restaurant

250 East Jackson St., San José, CA 95112

408.288.9611

Mon - Thu: 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM - 9:30 PM; Fri: 11:30AM – 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM; Sat: Noon to 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM - 9:30PM; Sun: Noon to 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ \$\$

1.1 miles by car , or take light rail north to the Japantown/Ayer stop, then walk north on North First Street one block, then turn right on Jackson Street.

Chris says: "As close as you can come to a Japanese restaurant being sainted."

Minato Japanese Restaurant

www.japantownsanjose.org/rest8.html

617 North 6th St., San José, CA 95112

408.998.9711

Tues -Thu: 11:30 AM-1:30 PM and 5:00 PM - 8:30 PM; Fri - Sat: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM and 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$

1.2 miles by car, or take light rail north to the Japantown/Ayer stop, then walk north on North First Street one block, then turn right on Jackson Street, then left on North Sixth Street.

Chris says: "I've been going here for years. The Minato Dinner Box is a very good deal and offers most of the best things of the restaurant."

Tsugaru Japanese Restaurant

224 Jackson St., San José, CA 95112

408.275.1493

Mon – Fri: 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM; Sat: 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$

1.25 miles by car, or take light rail north to the Japantown/Ayer stop, then walk north on North First Street one block, then turn right on Jackson Street.

Chris says: "The prices are strange, as some prices are high and some very reasonable."

Sushi Zen

1305 N 1st St., San José, CA 95112

408.453.1070

Mon - Fri. 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM and 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM; Sat: 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$\$

1.3 miles by car, or take light rail north to the Japantown/Ayer stop, then walk back south on North First Street a little over one block.

Chris says: "I still haven't managed to read the entire roll menu. You could eat five different rolls every day and not have gone through the whole menu in a year!"

Korean

Omogari Korean Restaurant

www.omogari.biz

154 East Jackson St., San José, CA 95112

408.288.8134

11:30 AM - 9:30 PM, Daily

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$

Distance - 1.4 miles by car, or take light rail north to the Japantown/Ayer stop, then walk north on North First Street one block, then turn right on Jackson Street.

Chris says: "The best thing on the menu might be the chap chae, though there's nothing bad on the menu that I've found."

Latin American

Nazca Peruvian Cuisine

www.nazcaperuviancuisine.com

167 West San Fernando Street, San José, CA 95113

408.295.2828

Tue - Wed 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM; Thu - Sat 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ \$\$\$

Directions- Take South Market street north to San Fernando street, turn left and it's a couple of blocks on the right. 0.2 miles.

Chris says: "Some of the most unique and delicious food you'll find in San José. The real highlight is the Pastel de Choclo appetizer which features corn bread stuffing with ground meat, raisins and onions."

Mexican

Agave Viejo

www.agaveviejous.com

151 W Santa Clara Street, San José, CA 95113

408.971.6096

Mon-Wed. 11:30 AM - 10:00 PM. Thu-Sat. 11:30 AM – Midnight. Sun. 4:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Where Spiedo used to be. This bills itself as a Mexican Cantina and Tequila Lounge

Rating: ★ ★ \$\$

North on Market Street, then left on Santa Clara Street to the corner of San Pedro Street. 0.4 miles.

Cheryl says: "People in California get as serious about tequila as we Brits get about whisky. This place claims to have over 90 different types."

Linda says: "New to downtown and the menu is still settling down. Many standard items, but a few unusual ones such as cactus salad, mole negro de Oaxaca and molcajete de mariscos."

Bakery Mexico No. 2

87 East Santa Clara St., San José, CA 95113

408.920.2518

5:00 AM – 3:00 AM

Open late for the nighthawks among us.

Rating: ★ ★ \$

Take South First street north to Santa Clara and turn right. It is a few blocks on the left. 0.4 miles

La Victoria Taqueria

140 East San Carlos St., San José, CA 95112

408.298.5335

Mon - Fri. 7:00 AM - Midnight; Sat: 9:00 AM - 12:00 AM; Sun: 7:00 AM - 12:00 AM

A favorite with local college students.

Rating: ★ \$ A?

Head south down South First Street and then turn left at San Carlos. It's about 3 blocks down in a walk-up Victorian.

Chris says: "The sauce, available on every table in the joint, is pretty magnificent!"

Pedro's Restaurant -y- Cantina

www.pedrosrestaurants.com 3935 Freedom Circle, Santa Clara, CA 95054

408.496.6777

Mon - Sat: 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM; Sun: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM

This is a bit further out than most of the places we've featured, but Pedro's is a classic joint where hundreds of folks go everyday. The building is a faux hacienda with a lovely internal courtyard that looks like the kind of place where a gunfight should break out.

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$ \$ (\$\$\$ for the Sunday Champagne Brunch)

4.8 miles by car.

Chris says: "The Sunday Champagne brunch buffet is fantastic, and there are Mariachis roaming around while you eat. To me, that makes the trip worth it!"

Taqueria El Abuelo

1005 Lincoln Ave., San José, CA 95125
408.293.4470

8:00 AM – 11:00 PM, Daily

Rating: ★ ★ \$

2.1 miles by car

Taqueria San José

235 East Santa Clara St., San José, CA 95109

8:30 AM - 10:00 PM Daily

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$ \$

Take South First Street North and turn right at Santa Clara. It is a few blocks up on your left.

Middle Eastern

Gulzaar Halaal Restaurant & Bakery

www.gulzaar.net

1880 West San Carlos St., San José, CA 95128

408.292.2786

Mon -Thu: 10:30 AM – 8:00 PM; Sat

and Sun: 11:30 AM - 7:30 PM

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$ \$

2.6 miles by car

Casablancas Café

www.casablancascafe.com

1185 Lincoln Ave., San José, CA 95125
408.993.8636

Mon - Sat: 10:00 AM - 9:30 PM; Sun: 10:

SJ Bars & Lounges

Bamboo 7 -- 162 Jackson Street (featuring Karaoke)

Cinebar -- 69 East San Fernando Street (with Pabst on Tap)

The Caravan -- 98 South Almaden Avenue

Dive Bar -- 78 East Santa Clara Street (featuring Tuesday Night Beer Pong!)

Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge -- 99 East San Fernando

Goza Hookah Lounge -- 18 North First Street

The Hedley Club in the Hotel DeAnza -- 233 West Santa Clara Street.

O'Flaherty's Irish Pub -- 25 North San Pedro Street

Smoke Tiki Lounge -- 152 Post Street

South First Billiards -- 420 South First Street

Tanq -- 301 South Market Street

Toons Nightclub -- 52 East Santa Clara Street

00 AM – 3:00 PM

Cash payment preferred.

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$

2.6 miles by car

Menara Moroccan Restaurant

www.menara41.com

41 East Gish Rd., San José, CA 95112

408.453.1983

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM Daily

The place to go if you want belly dancers.

Rating: ★ ★ \$\$\$\$

3.8 miles by car, or take light rail north to the Gish station.

Chris says: "The drinks are strong, the food is pretty good, especially the Honey Lamb, the atmosphere is exceptional, but most of all, it's a lot of fun."

Morocco's

www.moroccosrestaurant.com

86 N. Market Street, San José, CA 95113

408.998.1509

Mon: 11:00 AM - 9:30 PM; Tue - Fri: 11:00 AM - 11:00 PM; Sat - Sun: 5:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Rating: ★ ★ \$\$\$\$ (\$ for the Lunch Special) V

Take South Market Street north. It'll be on your left.

Chris says: "I never leave satisfied and find my mind wandering about all sorts of things as my stomach asks for some more."

Pizza

Amici's East Coast Pizzeria

www.amicis.com/location_details.asp?id=8

225 W. Santa Clara Street, San José, CA 95113

408.289.9000

Mon-Thu: 11:00 AM - 10:00 PM; Fri: 11:00 AM - 11:00 PM; Sat: 11:30 AM - 11:00 PM; Sun: 11:30 AM - 10:00 PM

Rating: ★ ★ \$\$

North on Market Street, then left on West Santa Clara Street past San Pedro Square

Kevin says: "Chain New York-style pizza. Okay if you like that sort of thing."

La Nostra Pizza Ristorante

www.lanostrapizza.com

80 South First St., San José, CA 95173

408.995.0924

Mon - Thu: 9:00 AM to 10:30 PM; Fri - Sat: 11 AM - 11 PM

New York-style thin crust pizza

Rating: ★ \$\$

Take 1st Street north about three blocks. It's on your right. 0.2 miles

Nick's Pizza and Italian Restaurant

www.nickspizzaitalian.com

354 East Santa Clara St., San José, CA 95113

408.286.9710

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$

Take First Street north to Santa Clara, turn right and go about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. It's on the left. 0.8 miles.

Chris says: "I love the Chicken Parm in a way that might be unhealthy. I have a photo of it that hangs in my bedroom."

Pizz'a Chicago

www.pizzachicago.com

155 West San Fernando Street, San José, CA 95113

408.283.9400

11:00 AM – 9:00 PM Daily

Chicago-style pizza.

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$

Take Market street north to San Fernando, turn left. It is 0.2 miles on your right.

Chris says: "The pizzas are big and awesomely filling. Do not expect to go home without a take-home box."

Seafood

Hawg's Seafood Bar

www.hawgsseafoodbar.com

150 South Second St., San José, CA 95113

408.287.9955

Tue - Thu: 11:30 AM – 9:00 PM; Fri - Sat: 11:30 AM – 10:00 PM; Sun: 4:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Hawgs is attached to the San José Rep Theatre.

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$

Exit the Fairmont onto Paseo de San Antonio, walk across First Street, pass the Camera 12 movie theatres and then make your way to the big blue building on the other side of Second street. It's on the left hand corner. 0.1 miles

Cheryl says: "Yes, the building is ugly, but don't hold that against the restaurant."

McCormick & Schmick's

www.mccormickandschmick.com

170 South Market St., San José, CA 95113

408.283.7200

Sun – Thu: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM; Fri – Sat: 11:30 AM – Midnight

What you would expect from this well-known national chain.

Rating: ★ ★ \$\$\$

It's right across the plaza. Don't have to cross a street or anything. Less than 100 yards.

Scott's Seafood

www.scottsseafoods.com

185 Park Avenue, San José, CA 95113

408.971.1700

Lunch: Mon-Fri: 11:30 AM – 5:00 PM; **Dinner:** Mon-Sat 5:00 PM, Sun 4:30 PM

Rating: ★ ★ \$\$\$

Cross the Plaza de Cesar Chavez to Park Avenue; it will be on the right, upstairs. 0.1 miles.

Spanish/Tapas

Picasso's Tapas Restaurant

www.picassotapas.com

62 West Santa Clara St., San José, CA 95113

408.298.4400

Lunch: Tues–Fri: 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM; Dinner: 5:30 PM to 10:00 PM Daily

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$

Take South First street North, turn left at Santa Clara Street and head about a block. It's about .25 miles down

Thai Cuisine

(See also Asian fusion section.)

Fantazia Thai Cuisine

1100 North First St., San José, CA 95112

408.294.8424

Mon-Fri: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM; Sat-Sun: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$

2.2 miles by car

Chris says: "The Appetizer Combo was remarkable the last time I got it to go."

House of Siam

www.houseofsiamsanjose.com

151 South 2nd St., San José, CA 95113

408.295.3397

Mon - Fri: Noon to 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM; Sat - Sun: Noon to 10:00 PM

Includes traditional Thai seating for the supple of limb (but does not require it).

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$ for Lunch, \$\$\$ for Dinner

Exit onto Paseo de San Antonio, cross First Street, then turn left at Second. It's about a hundred yards down on your left.

Cheryl says: "I'm passionate about Thai food and this place does not disappoint."

Hanuman Thai Cuisine

www.hanumanthaicuisine.com

1 E San Fernando St., San José, CA 95113

408.286.2482

Sun - Wed: 11:00 AM-10:00 PM; Thu - Sat: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM;

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ \$ \$

Take South First street north and it's at the corner with San Fernando on the right.

Chris says: "Tom Ka Gai is a delicious soup with chicken. The Roast Duck Curry was the favorite of everyone at our table."

Thepthai Thai Cuisine

23 N Market St, San Jose, CA 95113

408.292.7515

Rating: ★ ★ \$ \$

Take Market Street north 0.3 miles

Vietnamese

(See also Asian fusion section.)

www.i9market.com

19 N. Market Street, San José, CA 95113

408.280.6111

Lunch: Mon-Fri: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Dinner: Sun-Wed: 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM;

Thurs-Sat: 5:00 PM – Midnight. Happy Hour: Mon-Fri: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Rating: ★ ★ \$ \$

Take Market Street north 0.3 miles

Bihn Mihn Restaurant

1006 East Santa Clara St., San José, CA 95116

408.297.9868

Mon - Sat. 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM; Sun. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM

The menu includes goat and rabbit.

Rating: ★ ★ ★ \$\$\$

1.6 miles by car

Dalat Restaurant

408 East William St., San José, CA 95112

408.294.6989

7:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Daily

Founded in the 1970s, it has gained a loyal following.

Rating: ★★\$

Take South First Street south to William Street. Turn left and continue down several blocks. It's on the left 0.9 miles

Pho Lan Noodle House

255 East Santa Clara St. San José, CA 95113

408.298.5168

9:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Rating: ★★★\$

Take South First street north to Santa Clara street, turn right. It's several blocks down on the left. 0.6 miles

Chris says: "You're not going to find better Pho noodle soup in all of San José."

Tofoo Com Chay

www.tofoocomchay.com

388 East Santa Clara Street, San José, CA 95113

408.286.6335

Mon-Fri: 9:00 AM -9:00 PM; Sat: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

No meat, though they do some amazing things with tofu.

Rating: ★★★\$\$VV

Take South First Street north to Santa Clara street and turn right. It's a couple of blocks down on the left. 0.4 miles

Vung Tau Restaurant

www.Vungtaurestaurant.com

535 East Santa Clara St., San José, CA 95112

408.288.9055

Mon - Thu. 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM; Fri - Sun. 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Rating: ★★\$\$

Take South First Street north to Santa Clara Street and turn right. It is several blocks down on your left. 0.85 miles.

A Little Local Color

The Bay Area is legendary for being a great place to visit, and so if you're around for a little extra time, well, we figured we'd give you a look at a few places that you might want to take a little side trip off to visit.

Thankfully, we're lucky enough to have some local experts around, happy to give you their take on some places that you might wander over to, to spend time at and visit before and after the World Fantasy Convention 2009.

The Best of Santa Clara Introduced by Ed Stokke

I'm reviewing the special restaurants of Santa Clara: San Jose's little neighbor to the left. By special, I mean great food value and, with a few exceptions, no large chains.

Andy's BBQ

408.249.8158

2367 El Camino Real Santa Clara, CA

Mon-Thu: 11 AM - 9; Fri: 11 AM - 10; Sat 3PM - 10PM; Sun: 3PM - 9PM

When Andy's was a rustic dive in Campbell it was my favorite BBQ joint. Then Andy's went out of business. It has since been reinvented in Santa Clara in nice new surroundings. The food is still special but not as special as it once was.

Birk's

www.birksrestaurant.com 408.980.6400

3955 Freedom Cir., Santa Clara, CA

Lunch Mon - Fri: 11:15 AM to 2:30 PM; Dinner: Mon - Sat: 5:00 PM-10:00 PM

This fine dinning establishment serves Silicon Valleys' elite on

weekdays and is usually loud and packed. However, on weekends this is a quiet and romantic getaway. The menu is surf and turf, the food is excellent, and the clam chowder is featured everyday of the week. Some of the best clam chowder I have tasted and I love clam chowder.

Country Inn Café

408.244.6267

2008 El Camino Real Santa Clara, CA

Mon - Fri: 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM; Sat: 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM; Sun: 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM

They serve American food for breakfast lunch and dinner. This is not health food. This restaurant serves the real deal, large portions of great food. Here is a contender for the best breakfast in Santa Clara.

Fish Market

www.thefishmarket.com 408.246.3474

3775 El Camino Real Santa Clara, CA

Lunch Mon - Sat: 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM; Sun: Noon to 4:00 PM;

Dinner Sun - Thu: 4:00 PM-9:30 PM; Fri - Sat: 4:00 PM - 10:00 PM

This is my old favorite fine dining establishment. While seafood is the house specialty, there are other options. This is my entrant in the "Best Oysters Rockefeller on the West coast" contest, a private contest I have been judging for years.

Jaoa's

57 Washington St. Santa Clara, CA (408) 244-1299

Tue - Wed: 7:30 AM - 1:30 PM; Thu - Sat: 7:30 AM - 9:00 PM; Sun.: 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Fantastic home-style Brazilian food. Also a wonderful place to come watch soccer when the Brazilians are playing.

La Paloma

408.247.0990

2280 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA

Mon - Thu: 11:00 AM to 9:30; Fri - Sat: 11:00 AM to 10:00; Sun: 11:

00 AM to 8:00

This restaurant serves excellent, family-style Mexican food. It is a Santa Clara landmark, and a long time favorite.

Mariani's Inn & Restaurant

www.marianis.com 408.243.1431

2500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA

6:30 AM - 10:00 PM Daily

Chicken Marsala and Parmesan are the specialties of the house. All my life friends have insisted that this was the best restaurant in town. Writing these reviews made me test those assertions. They were right! The ambiance, service, food, and presentation were four star. The prices were two and three star. Mariane's is a Santa Clara landmark having opened in 1953.

Peacock

www.peacockindianrestaurants.com 408.247.9264

2798 El Camino Real Santa Clara, CA

11:30 AM - 3pm, and 5pm-10pm, Daily

My wife Sue gives this new Indian Restaurant an excellent rating. She loves Indian food and raved about Peacock. The Butter Chicken is exceptional.

Shindokdo

408.243.6000

2690 El Camino Real Santa Clara, CA (408) 243-6000

Mon - Fri: 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM-10:30 PM; Sat - Sun: 4:00 PM-10:30 PM

This review comes from the two very nice ladies at the Trade-A-Book in the Moonlight shopping center. They eat there often and call it excellent Japanese cuisine. I concur.

Smoke Eaters

www.smoke-eaters.com 408. 241.2582

2565 The Alameda Santa Clara, CA

Sun - Thu: 11 AM to midnight; Fri - Sat 11 AM to 2 AM

The specialty of the house is Hot Wings. There are seven levels of

heat. The hottest one is dangerous. This is a loud sports bar that caters to Santa Clara University. There are always multiple games on including the XBox.

Su's Mongolian BBQ

408.985.2958

1111 El Camino Real Santa Clara, CA

Mon - Sat: 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM-9:00 PM

During the Mongolian BBQ ubiquity Su's was one of the first, is one of the last, and continues to be one of the best. All you can eat buffet, bottomless soft drinks, and soft ice cream cones. Build your own stir fry and watch them stir fry it.

Thaibodia

www.thaibodia.com 408.248.8868

2155 El Camino Real Santa Clara, CA

Sun - Thu: 11:00 AM to 9:30 PM; Fri - Sat: 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM

Thaibodia caught my eye while I was preparing these reviews.

Thai and Cambodian are two of my favorite cuisines. The fusion is unique in my experience. The online reviews are as good as my own.

Thai Pepper

1045 Monroe Santa Clara, CA (408) 984-1931

Mon-sat lunch 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM dinner 5:00 PM-9:30 PM

This is my favorite Thai restaurant. It is a bit hard to find. It is down the walkway through the Franklin Mall from the intersection of Monroe and Franklin. Well worth the trouble, especially for those with extra time and a car.

Berkeley

Introduced by David Bratman

Berkeley! Named in 1866 by a founder of the University of California who stood on a hillside rock looking out over the Golden Gate and quoted a line from Bishop George Berkeley, "Westward the course of empire takes its way," it's been famous

ever since for the university and all the cultural amenities that go with being one of the most famous college towns in the world: bookstores, restaurants, theater and museums, and of course the history of protests and the colorful street life. Berkeley is also famous for its fantasy literature. I've arranged a short selection of sights by neighborhood. All phone numbers are area code 510.

A little guide like this must omit much. If you've been to Berkeley before but not very recently, you may find its book life sadly diminished. Cody's is no more, and Black Oak has gone into hibernation, we hope to re-emerge some day. But many others remain. In most cities the list of bookstores is quickly told. In Berkeley I have space to mention only half of them. And this doesn't even pretend to be a serious restaurant guide. I'm listing one personal favorite restaurant for each neighborhood of the city. If you want more, the online newspaper listings at www.eastbayexpress.com/ebx/Restaurants and www.sfgate.com/restaurants are good, and there's useful advice at www.chowhound.chow.com and www.yelp.com.

Claremont/Elmwood

The easiest drive to Berkeley from San José is to take I-880 north to downtown Oakland (about 42 miles from the Fairmont), then east on I-980 and Highway 24, off at the Claremont Avenue exit, and turn left. This will take you uphill directly towards the Claremont Hotel, the huge white wedding cake of a building that was host to, among other things, the 1981 WFC. In the hills just to the south is Greyhaven, the only private home to have given birth to an entire school of fantasy writers and its own anthology (DAW, 1983; the back cover blurb says its "exact location is known to a very special few" – actually, it's in the phone book).

Shops: On the way uphill you'll pass the Groove Yard (5555 Claremont, at Forest St., 655-8400), a used record store specializing in jazz LPs – yes, around here such places still exist – and then, on the left between Woolsey and Prince, at the Uplands traffic light, are no fewer than three book stores in one block. First is Dark Carnival (3086 Claremont, 654-7323), Jack Rems'

rabbit-warren of a fantasy/SF/mystery store, filled with colorful knickknacks as well as new and used books in endless surprising alcoves. Also on the block are Afikomen (3042 Claremont, 655-1977), Jewish books and gifts, and Turtle Island (3032 Claremont, 655-3413, limited hours), a collectors' used book store specializing in modern mainstream literature and art books.

Food: Turn left on the side streets here, or at the next light at Ashby, and immediately downhill on College Avenue around Ashby you'll find the Elmwood shopping district. Among the restaurants here is Shen Hua (2914 College Ave., 883-1777), northern Chinese cuisine, noisy but clean with minimalist decor, with some of the best shrimp dishes I've ever had in a Chinese restaurant.

Theater: A couple blocks north of Elmwood is the Julia Morgan Theater (2640 College Ave., 845-8542), a gem of a small performing space, named for its architect.

South Campus

You can get here from state 24 by turning right instead of left on Claremont and then a hard right on Telegraph Avenue, or from Elmwood by continuing north on College Avenue to campus and turning left. Parking is challenging here. There's a public lot just east (uphill) of Telegraph between Channing Way and Haste Street that costs \$1/hour in machines that take bills only, and the Sather Gate Garage just west of Telegraph between Channing and Durant Avenue where you pay at a counter before leaving, and which costs more but gives discounts through validation cards from local businesses.

The last stretch of Telegraph Avenue immediately south of campus is the soul of Berkeley, with colorful shops and all the street life you can imagine, from vendors selling tie-dye to the more exotic and less licit. Most Berkeley fiction, including fantasy, is set in and around here. The House Between the Worlds in Marion Zimmer Bradley's 1980 novel of that title, for instance, is somewhere on this part of Telegraph, and The Folk of the Air in Peter Beagle's 1986 novel of that title make their first appearance

on the equivalent of this street.

Everywhere else in the city displays characteristic Berkeley qualities in direct proportion to its closeness to Telegraph. It's the Withywindle, the center from which all the strangeness comes. A tour of historic Sixties Berkeley would begin on the chunk of brick sidewalk at the edge of campus on Bancroft Way at Telegraph. A dispute over the right of students to set up tables supporting political causes here gave rise to the Free Speech Movement of 1964. Just beyond it, on campus, is Sproul Plaza.

Here and on the front steps of Sproul Hall (the administration building to the right, also home to a famous sit-in) were the famous rallies and speeches. Turn around and walk three blocks to Haste Street. Across the street on the left is a mural depicting the events of the era, and just up the street beyond that is People's Park, the university-owned vacant lot that was liberated into a park in 1969. Much of the subsequent police-student battle took place around the intersection of Telegraph and Dwight Way.

Also near that intersection (but before the road was widened) was the Garden Library, where Anthony Boucher and other members of the Elves', Gnomes', and Little Men's Science Fiction, Chowder and Marching Society met in the 1950s. Boucher lived four blocks south of here, and set some of his stories in the neighborhood.

Shops: Moe's, between Haste and Dwight (2476 Telegraph, 849-2087) is four floors of Berkeley's flagship used bookstore, with a separate antiquarian shop on the top floor. Jonathan Lethem used to work here. Across the street is Shakespeare & Co. (2499 Telegraph, 841-8916), also used and also good. At the Haste St. corner is Amoeba Music (2455 Telegraph, 549-1125), a large and excellent used-and-some-new CD store that also carries DVDs and LPs.

Another block up, at Channing, is Rasputin's Music (2401 Telegraph, 848-9004), somewhat similar. In the mall beneath the Sather Gate Garage is the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library Bookstore (2431 Channing, 841-5604, limited hours); the back half of its space was the original home of The Other Change of Hobbit, now downtown. On Bancroft Way below Telegraph are several

San Jose's 7 Best Downtown Happy Hours

Billy Berk's -- 99 South First Street, Discounted Appetizers and drinks.

Cinebar -- 69 East San Fernando Street, 2 Dollar Draft Pabst Blue Ribbons.

Hawg's Seafood -- 150 South Second Street, 75 cent Oysters, \$2.50 Well-drinks and Beers

Johnny V's -- 31 East Santa Clara Street, 2-for-1 Kamikazes, Cosmos and Sake Bombs

The Loft Bar & Bistro -
- 86 South Second Street
<http://www.loftbarandbistro.com/>

McCormick & Schmick's -
- 170 South Market Street
Large, affordable Happy Hour Menu

Tied House Brewery- 65 North San Pedro Street, Half-off Appetizers, \$3.25 Draft Beers

stores specializing in textbooks (including one across the street on campus in the Student Union). A bit further down is The Musical Offering (2430 Bancroft, 849-0211), just about the last classical CD specialty store anywhere; it's also a café.

Food: Some is good, but this neighborhood can be spotty. Between the mural and People's Park you'll find Mario's La Fiesta (2506 Haste St., 848-2588 – recently moved from its old location half a block away), a long-standing Mexican restaurant offering what I consider the canonical chicken and pork tamales. Café Mediterraneum (2475 Telegraph, 549-1128) serves salads and sandwiches and is a noted hangout featured in Diana L. Paxson's contemporary urban fantasy novels.

The U.C. Campus

Central campus, past Sather Gate at the far end of Sproul Plaza, is quieter than anything around it – an oasis of greenery and disparate buildings. Much of *Earth Abides* by George R. Stewart (a U.C. professor) takes place in its future ruins. At the center of

campus is the Campanile; during limited hours you can ride the elevator to the top for \$2. Facing it on the uphill side is Le Conte Hall, the Physics building where Oppenheimer, Lawrence, et al had their offices. (Their element-discovering Chemistry colleagues had labs just up the hill in Lewis Hall.) The small building connected to Le Conte, Birge Hall, then an empty space, was where Ernest Lawrence set up his first cyclotron. Facing the Campanile on the downhill side is the Bancroft Library, a rare books collection specializing in California history, and connected to that on the far side is Doe Library, the main library, designed by John Galen Howard. Doe's Reference Hall, on the second floor, has the most beautiful ceiling on campus.

Museums: The Hearst Museum of Anthropology (642-3682) is in Kroeber Hall (named for Ursula K. Le Guin's father, longtime professor in the department) at the corner of Bancroft Way and College Avenue. The Berkeley Art Museum (2626 Bancroft Way, 642-0808) is across the street from campus between Telegraph and College. High up in the hills above campus (drive up behind the football stadium and take the road going up the canyon) is the Lawrence Hall of Science (Centennial Dr., 642-5132), a good basic science museum emphasizing children's and general public education.

Downtown

Downtown is just west of campus, and Shattuck Avenue is its spine. If you take BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) to the Berkeley station, you'll arrive at Shattuck and Center Street. Just behind you across the street as you emerge from the main escalator is 2165 Shattuck (now a GNC health store), site of the TV and electronics shop where Philip K. Dick worked in the 1940s, model for all the small businesses in his novels, though the neighborhood has changed much since then.

Shops: The Other Change of Hobbit (2020 Shattuck, 848-0413) is 2 1/2 blocks north of BART on the left (west) side of the western branch of Shattuck. Dave Nee runs this, the other fantasy/SF/mystery bookstore in Berkeley. Besides the books, enjoy

the classical music on the radio and the two cats, which (as of two months ago when I wrote this) were still young enough to scamper across the floor and underneath the bookcases in pursuit of any dust bunnies they could find. Just next door is Comic Relief (2026 Shattuck, 843-5002), a comics bookstore of mind-boggling size and stock. Round off your visit with Half-Price Books, also next door (2036 Shattuck, 526-6080)

Food: There are some gems hiding here. Just around the far corner and half a block down the street from the Other Change is Jayakarta (2026 University Ave., 841-0884), a modest Indonesian restaurant that's extremely inexpensive and incredibly good. Bongo Burger on Center is exceptionally cheap and good hamburgers, shawarma, and luleh kebabs, with great big onion rings.

Theater: These are located in the block of Addison Street west (downhill) from Shattuck, a block north of the BART station. Berkeley Rep (2025 Addison, 647-2949; www.berkeleyrep.org) is currently running a set of short plays by Tony Kushner, collectively titled Tiny Kushner, get it? The Aurora Theater Company (2081 Addison, 843-4822; www.auroratheatre.org) next door is performing Neil LaBute's Fat Pig. The new home of the Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse across the street (2020 Addison, 548-7603; www.freightandsalvage.org) is ground zero for acoustic music. Nightly performers offer folk, neo-urban folk, bluegrass, or Celtic; occasional jazz, blues, western swing, or even classical; and sometimes the just plain unclassifiable.

North Shattuck

Continuing north on Shattuck Avenue from downtown is the area called the Gourmet Ghetto, with many upscale foodie places between Delaware and Rose. If you want to eat at Alice Waters' Chez Panisse (1517 Shattuck, closer to Vine than Cedar, downstairs restaurant 548-5525, upstairs café 548-5049) you'll already have made a reservation. Right next door is the affordable and lovely ChaAm Thai Restaurant (1543 Shattuck, 848-9664) My usual hangout in this part of town is Saul's Deli (1475 Shattuck,

just north of Vine, 848-3354). It's not a patch on a good New York Jewish deli, and it may not even be the best deli in the Bay Area, but it does have the best atmosphere.

Across the street from Chez Panisse is the Cheese Board (1504 Shattuck, 549-3183), a fabulous cheese shop which probably would have Venezuelan Beaver Cheese if you were crass enough to ask for it. On the cross street just above this corner is the original outlet of Peet's Coffee and Tea (2124 Vine, 841-0564).

Solano Avenue/Albany

As you keep going north past the Gourmet Ghetto, the artery changes names a couple times and then dives into a tunnel. When you emerge you're on Solano Avenue westbound. In the mile-and-a-bit of Solano between here and San Pablo Avenue, in this part of Berkeley and the adjoining town of Albany, are packed what I consider the best restaurants in the area. There are several Chinese and Thai places, literally half a dozen other Asian nationalities represented, and some other things including Mexican and a few good varieties of basic American. I've never finished exploring the depth here, so I'm not even going to try to make recommendations, except to note the presence, near the tunnel end, of Zachary's Pizza (1853 Solano, 525-5950), deep-dish Chicago style, often considered the best pizza in Berkeley. It's also right next door to Pegasus Books (1855 Solano, 525-6888), specializing in high-quality remainders, also offering new and used books.

Coming from Shattuck, if you skip the tunnel by turning uphill on Del Norte, the last street to the right before the tunnel, this will curve around and deposit you at a traffic circle above the tunnel. Running uphill from here is upper Marin Avenue, once a streetcar line, barreling straight up at a terrifying incline that will challenge your car's transmission. It's one of Berkeley's odder sights.

Santa Cruz

Introduced by M Lloyd

Let's look at the city of Santa Cruz. You've probably have heard of it, a legendary spot for surfers and a beautiful city for all visitors. The beauty of Santa Cruz is that you can see a gorgeous city coupled with a lovely Boardwalk and several places for delightful food.

There is no easier set of directions than those from downtown San Jose to Santa Cruz. Hop onto 880 South (also known as Highway 17) and keep going until it dumps you out in the center of town. No other way to do it, really. The road between Los Gatos and Santa Cruz is twisting, mountainous and lovely. Those prone to car sickness should sit in the front.

If you're going to Santa Cruz, you should start by setting some time aside for the Boardwalk (400 Beach Street, Santa Cruz, 831-423-5590). It's a classic assortment of rides and sand and bad carnival food. The Giant Dipper is a legendary roller coaster that is worth the trip over the mountains. The weather in October is usually still pretty good, though the beach tends to be blighted by more seaweed washed up on the shore than at other times of the year.

After you've spent some time at the Boardwalk, there are a couple of lovely places that you might want to visit, like the Lighthouse Surfing Museum (809 Center St, Santa Cruz, 831-420-6289). It's a tiny museum with a selection of legendary surfboards, memorabilia, and photos from 100 years of surfing history. It's a lovely joint, a good place to spend an hour or so. You'll learn a lot about surfing. Unless you already know a lot about surfing. Then you'll simply be in the best place to enjoy your passion.

After that, you'll be hungry. You're lucky, there are bunches of places. I'd suggest starting with The O'mei (2316 Mission St., Santa Cruz, 831-425-8458). For more than twenty-five years, this place has been doing Chinese Fusion and is a fave with locals and families of UCSC students' families. Café Brazil (1410 Mission St., Santa Cruz, 831-429-1855) is another great place, this one for lovely Brazilian foods. If you get a chance, enjoy the Acia bowls.

Upper Crust Pizza & Pasta (2415 Mission St., Santa Cruz, 831-423-9010) is one of the best pizza places around. Highly enjoyable.

Late afternoon might be a good time to head over to Natural Bridges State Park, where the monarch butterflies will have already started gathering. They cover the trees in the park and it's amazing. They close at sunset, so you can enjoy a lunch and then head over.

If you're looking to close out the day in the area, try 99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall (110 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz, 831.459.9999), which is right in the middle of the lovely downtown area. Beers from around the world along with a good smattering of bar food. It's a great way to end a visit to a lovely sea-side city.

Piedmont Avenue, Oakland

Introduced by Christopher J Garcia

To get there, take Interstate 880 north to Interstate 980. Veer off there and head on the 51st Street ramp, turning right off the ramp. Go straight a mile and a half, turn right at Piedmont. There are several small parking lots on both sides of the street, but they are often packed on the weekends.

Starting on the Eastern side of the street, there's Fenton's. If you remember the days when a trip to the soda fountain was a treat, then you're in luck because this place will take you back. The ice cream is delightful, and if you're interested, you should try the burger. Tasty, though slightly expensive. After that, you'll want to head up just a few doors to one of my favorite used book stores, Black Swan Books. You can find everything from classic literature to postcards from the 1939 World's Fair to the Julliard School of the Arts Year in Review, 1966. Well, you can't find those anymore, since I bought them, but you get the idea.

After that, there's a lovely church on the corner that's worth a look and maybe a photo or two, but the highlight of this section of Piedmont Avenue is the Piedmont Theatre (<http://www.landmarktheaters.com/Market/SanFranciscoEastBay/PiedmontTheatre.htm>). It's a lovely joint that shows Art House fair. If you've got a few spare hours, there are far worse locations to

see a flick.

Cross the street and you're at the Park Avenue Bar & Grill (www.parkavebar.com). It's a lovely place for a meal, but even better during the weekend brunches. Try the steak sandwich. It's marvelous when fully-loaded. If you cross Piedmont again, you'll find four fantastic places, a wine shoppe (Wine on Piedmont), a coffee/tearoom (L'Amynx Tea Bar), a marvelous bookstore (Spectator Bookstore- www.spectatorbooks.com), and an old-skool antique store (Lost & Found Antiques). All within a block of each other. You can spend some good money in those four places, especially the bookstore.

Hungry again? Cross Piedmont AGAIN and you'll find a similar run of fantastic places to eat. There's a magnificent burger place, Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers (www.barnseyshamburgers.com/), a Mexican restaurant, Baja Taqueria (www.bajaonpiedmont.com/) that does amazing lobster burritos and quesadillas, Simply Greek (www.simply-greek.com), a fine place for souvlaki and gyros. If you're there for breakfast, try Piedmont Cafe & Bakery. I've been there every weekend for more than two years and I've not yet found a bad restaurant.

Comic Books? There's Dr. Comics & Mr. Games, which is a large, well-stocked comic shop with plenty of back issues, graphic novels, games, toys and what have you. You can find everything from Gumby to *A Treasury of Victorian Murder* on their shelves. You can find food stuffs of exotic and high-end qualities here too, with two fine groceries, A.G. Ferrari's and Piedmont Grocery Company, almost exactly across the street from one another. Right next to Ferrari's is Gregoire (www.gregoirerestaurant.com), and if you hit there last, you can take a wonderful boxed dinner away with you. The potato puffs are amazing. You can also find fine dining at Bay Wolf (www.baywolf.com) a bit further down the street. It's delicious and up-scale - make a reservation. You'll drop a good bit of wallet weight eating there.

All of that and marvelous clothes stores, shoes galleries, Starbucks, an exceptional newsstand, and so much more. You can spend a few hours or repeated visits over months and months and you won't be sorry for the time spent.

The City...or San Francisco

introduced by Rina Weisman

Yes, it's "the City." There is no other. Sorry.

Well, if you could, you'd live here, right? We don't blame you...it's late October, and while it may be snowing in your home town, the weather here will be cool and sunny during the day, and maybe a nice 40*-60* at night. It's a swell place to hang out. Check the weather reports before you pack, and you'll be fine.

Here's some tips to help you blend in, however, and appear to be a [San Francisco local](#). If you say you're from "Frisco," the jig is up. We won't tar and feather you, or ride you out on a rail, but you will get funny looks.

We'll leave it to you to Mapquest your way north from the convention, but be aware that if you are driving, every day but Sunday is a meter day; at .25 per 5 minutes, it adds up quickly, so look for parking garages if you plan to spend some time in any one area. Otherwise, park on the streets with no meters, and take a nice walk to your destination. San Francisco's arbitrary parking laws are the stuff of legend - and tickets are very expensive - so look for and read the sidewalk signs about when not to park. Our fair city is fond of towing cars...but when you have the cable cars (\$5 each way, no transfers) the SFMUNI F Trolley Line down Market Street to Fisherman's Wharf area and shank's mare, you don't need a car so much anyways

There are any number of websites about stuff for the tourists; Fisherman's Wharf, Union Square, the Castro, Union Street, the Fillmore, the Ferry Building's Farmers Market, Golden Gate Park, the Tenderloin...avoid the obvious tourist traps, and check this site <http://www.onlyinsanfrancisco.com/> out for the local's low-down on what to do in the City. Also, if you want to leave some cash behind, this is a good site that shows you how to do it <http://www.unionsqureshop.com/>

While restaurants come and go, it's often been estimated that there's, on average, about 1 restaurant per every 60 people. It makes it easy to try lots of new places, because new places are always springing up.

Here's a few tried and true favorites.

THE MISSION DISTRICT

There's a couple versions of the Mission District - skip Mission Street between 16th St. and 24th Street BART, and concentrate instead around 24th Street and Valencia. If you park on Mission don't leave anything visible in your car.

Andalu

www.andalusf.com/

\$\$, with a special group menu; reservations recommended; specializing in small plates, one of a number of tapas restaurants in the area; nice upscale ambiance, the joint is hip, baby;. It's got the advantage of being across the street from Jack's Bar, too.

Bangkok 16

<http://www.bangkok16sf.com/>

\$ - with lots of veggie dishes; delicious Thai food, at inexpensive prices. Try the Bangkok 16 with chicken, and the beef panang; friendly, good food, and good service.

Bissap Baobab -

www.bissapbaobab.com/

\$\$ - West African Senagales, this place is fantastic; good prices, and a very unique menu, featuring lots of seafood choices, and large portions. Jeremy's favourite.

La Palma Mexicatessen

www.lapalmasf.com/

\$ - V - takeout only, no seating / The most authentic tacos and burritos you'll find in the Mission, all made to order, and you can buy bags of spinach tortillas to take home. Plus a pinata or two.

Pancho Villa

<http://panchovillasf.com/>

\$ - veggie versions of everything; excellent filling and authentic

Mexican food, the home of the largest Super Burrito in the world. Clean, with quick service, meat chopped while you wait; good horchata, and dinner for two with beer under \$20.

Roosevelt Tamale Parlour

www.roosevelttamaleparlor.com/

\$ - V / This gem has been around since 1919, and in this location since 1922. A small neighborhood place that locals love, you won't want to miss the pork empanadas, the mole poblano, the chile verde pork, and especially, the seafood ceviches, a bargain at about \$8.

Sunflower Vietnamese

<http://www.sunflower-restaurant.com/>

\$ - lots of veggie dishes; the best budget Vietnamese place in the City; highlights are the potstickers, the Sunflower prawns, and the garlic noodles. Big portions. I was told not to mention this place, so as to keep it for ourselves, but you'll love it.

THE CASTRO / EUREKA VALLEY

Anchor Oyster Bar

<http://www.anchoroysterbar.com/>

\$\$ - seafood, plain and simple. The Castro has a nice shopping district, rest here with a dozen oysters and a beer before crossing the street and heading back to Market St. Good chowder, too.

Cote du Sud

<http://www.cotesudsf.com/>

\$\$; not wheelchair accessible; a lovely little French restaurant located upstairs, off a side street from Castro. One of the best prix fixe menus in the City, great wine list, and if you request the patio, you are guaranteed one romantic evening with wine and a nice cassoulet.

Crepevine

<http://www.crepevine.com/locations.htm>

\$;V; dessert crepes too; the best place in the area to have a great breakfast or lunch; crepes galore, salads, sandwiches, and fresh squeeze orange juice in a sunny room on Church Street; don't miss the banana-nutella crepes with whipped cream for dessert. One of a small chain, but it's all good.

L'Ardoise

<http://www.ardoisesf.com/>

\$\$; reservations required. You'll swear you are stepping into a little Left Bank bistro. Food and French wine list is top notch, and the French speaking staff swear colorfully across the tiny room, making for a wonderful ambiance, and a delightfully sophisticated evening out.

Samovar Tea Lounge

<http://www.samovartea.com/>

\$ for tea, \$\$ for quite astonishingly good food. Their motto is "Practice Peace. Drink Tea" and it's a lovely place to sit with the laptop, peruse the paper, hang out with friends on a Sunday, and enjoy some chrysanthemum tea with your ginger quinoa waffles. Nice specials, too.

DOWNTOWN - UNION SQUARE AREA

Avoid the Cheesecake Factory atop Macy's on Union Square like the plague. So not worth it.

Belden Place - between the Union Square area and the Financial District, home to several fabulous restaurants, all with a European flair; with lots of outdoor seating, it's very charming, but packed on Bastille Day

<http://www.belden-place.com/view/restaurants/>

B44 - Catalan cuisine

Plouf - très Française - specializing in mussels and authentic French pastries

Brindisi - well priced Mediterranean dishes focusing on seafood

Café Tiramisu - Northern Italian cuisine; fresh pasta and seafood

John's Grill - home of the Maltese Falcon!

<http://johnsgrill.com/>

\$\$\$; reservations needed; great steaks, seafood, salads; another of the traditional restaurants that San Francisco is famous for; mentioned in Hammet's *The Maltese Falcon*, the restaurant is also a shrine to old San Francisco; good food at decent prices, and a throwback to another era

Kuleto's

<http://www.kuletos.com/>

\$\$; reservations are good, but not necessary; excellent Northern Italian cuisine, located in the Villa Florence hotel right on the busy shop-filled Powell Street, by the cable car turnaround. The bells, my god, the bells! Good filling food that doesn't cost an arm and a leg, with a good Italian coffee shop next door for desserts.

Maiden Lane - a boutique shopping area just off Union Square, it gets its name from its 19th century history as a center of prostitution cribs. It's come a long way since then, with many shops and cafes along its two blocks. You'll find a couple of salad and sandwich cafes along the way for a quick, inexpensive bite
<http://www.unionsquaresf.net/maidenlane.htm>

Postrio

<http://www.postrio.com/>

\$\$\$; Reservations required, check dress code; justly famous for their Californian with Asian and Mediterranean influences. The menus changes daily with an emphasis on Bay Area produce. A nice place to go if you have an expense account, or want to impress out-of-town relatives or maybe catch a glimpse of Wolfgang Puck. Excellent bar, too.

Sears Fine Foods

<http://www.searsfinefood.com/>

\$; the place for breakfast when you are downtown; founded in 1938, their little Swedish pancakes are legendary.

Tadich Grill

<http://www.yelp.com/biz/tadich-grill-san-francisco>

\$\$\$; doesn't take reservations; a little off the Union Square area, over in the Financial District, but as San Francisco's oldest restaurant it rates a mention. Old school; crusty waiters and sourdough, and delicious seafood dishes like lobster ravioli with lump crab, shrimp Newburg, and great chowder.

CHINATOWN

"Son, Observe The Time And Fly From Evil" - you'll be familiar with the locale from the books of Kage Baker and Lisa Mason. Just about everything else you'd like to know...right here <http://www.sanfranciscochinatown.com/>

Golden Gate Bakery [http://www.yelp.com/biz/golden-gate-bakery-san-francisco#hrid:9Yp4HU4STZTXP2jRdqH7-A/src:search/query:chinese bakery](http://www.yelp.com/biz/golden-gate-bakery-san-francisco#hrid:9Yp4HU4STZTXP2jRdqH7-A/src:search/query:chinese%20bakery)

\$; sugar rush; bar none, the best Chinese pastries in the City. Go home with a box of almond cookies and egg custard tarts for later.

Great Eastern Restaurant

<http://local.yahoo.com/info-21383583-great-eastern-san-francisco>

\$; lots of veggie options; wheelchair accessible; the hands down best place to eat in Chinatown. Forget the fancy expensive places, the basement digs with flyers for 20% off - just go here. Order your fish fresh from the aquariums lining the wall, share large portions of amazingly delicious Chinese food, and large parties welcome; feed you and your five friends for about \$60 and endless cups of tea. Open late

NORTH BEACH

Too bad it's not the late 1950's...Vesuvio's would be rocking, City Lights Bookstore would be proclaiming something or other subversive, and you'd be sipping espresso on a little chair outside in the cool evening of a summer's day, daddio.. It's a little different now, but hey, it's still good

Capp's Corner

<http://cappscorner.com/>

They'll tell you what to eat here, and you'll like it!! The real "Little Italy" ambiance with great Irish bartenders in San Francisco. This is a favorite place for a hearty lunch or dinner serving a family style menu; great for large parties and open late

Da Flora

<http://local.yahoo.com/info-21374153-da-flora-san-francisco>

\$\$; reservations recommended; a delightful corner restaurant located before the hubbub of North Beach central; and perfect for that romantic dinner for two to unwind after sightseeing; good wine list, and Venetian dishes focusing on fresh and local make for a perfect meal

Golden Boy Pizza

<http://www.goldenboypizza.com/>

\$; where it's hip to be square; top-notch pizza; grab a slice and some root beer, and wander around North Beach.

Mario's Bohemian Cigar Store Café

<http://www.northbeachshop.com/pages/marios.html>

\$; perfect focaccia sandwiches that go well with a beer; excellent place to sit and people watch the goings on in Washington Park in North Beach

Rose Pistola

<http://www.rosepistolasf.com/>

\$\$\$; reservations needed; ask to sit at the chef's bar and watch the

kitchen at work; excellently prepared and priced Italian food, with a lively and bawdy ambience that makes you feel right at home. The best of the restaurants in the North Beach area

Specs Twelve Adler Museum Cafe

<http://www.yelp.com/biz/specs-twelve-adler-museum-cafe-san-francisco-2>

\$; bar; off William Saroyan Place and Columbus, this place was hipster cool back in the 40's and is still worth the time and alcohol consumption to visit. The dive bar to end all dive bars, and the history to go with it. They have a reading lamp at the bar so you can drink and read. Imagine.

Stella's Pastries

<http://stellapastry.com/>

\$; Since 1942, Stella Pastry and Café has been baking traditional Italian pastries and cakes, simply the best Italian pastry shop in the city; home of the Sacripantina, pinenut cookies, and amazing tiramisu; don't leave without trying a couple of cannollis.

And of course, visit City Lights Books www.citylights.com - Just make the pilgrimage.

FISHERMAN'S WHARF & PIER 39

My sister-in-law likes it that San Francisco has a place just for tourists...but whether you come down here to see the sea lions (a laugh riot when they are around in the summer) or try and get a feel for what San Francisco's waterfront used to be like, there's still some treasures locals seek out, even here.

Lunch or dinner on the go while sightseeing

Grab a cup of chowder or some shrimp salad from any vendor here. Lunch for under \$8, and you can wander over and check out the U.S.S. Pampanito, a restored WWII submarine, <http://www.maritime.org/pamphome.htm>, a part of the Maritime Museum (located at Hyde Street Pier). Take a tour from some old

salts who used to serve on subs like this. Next to it is docked the S.S. Jeremiah O'Brien, one of two remaining fully functional Liberty Ships of the 2,710 built and launched during WWII, with the distinction of being the last unaltered Liberty Ship remaining historically accurate. Moored at Pier 45, Fisherman's Wharf, you can take a tour, or come back Memorial Day weekend and take a ride around the bay on her

Some other goodies around the area:

Ana Mandara

<http://www.anamandara.com/>

\$\$ - reservations; top flight Vietnamese restaurant, with all the bells and whistles; elegant dining at its best, with delicious dishes with names like "Dreams of Sea and Fire" and "Drifting Clouds in Autumn Skies" and "Smoke and Seduction." The Cham Bar Happy Hour will make you happy with stunning views of the San Francisco Bay and the Golden Gate Bridge

Liverpool Lil's

<http://www.liverpoollils.com/>

\$\$\$; reservations are needed weekend nights; the best Irish coffees in the City, and the epitome of a neighborhood restaurant that quietly and consistently produces good food at decent prices; a real local's place, they offer old-fashioned dishes like snails en beurre, Beef Wellington, and the occasional veal dish. Really good hamburgers too, and a decor from the early 70's that's right in all the right ways

Scoma's

<http://www.scomas.com/>

\$\$\$; reservations needed; if you want to visit one of the venerable seafood restaurants at the Wharf, this is the place. Located out amidst the fishing boats off the wharf, it's also near a fish receiving station, which permits public viewing of fish and local Dungeness crab as it's off-loaded from boats and prepared for the kitchen daily. Known for crab cakes, cioppino, and fresh, sustainable fish.

If you feel you must go to Fisherman's Wharf, check out what's on offer here at <http://www.fishermanswharf.org>

A little west of Fisherman's Wharf, walk past the Maritime History Museum (make time if you can, visiting these ships is an awesome experience, and makes you feel like you've traveled back in time), and up and over to Fort Mason <http://www.fortmason.org/> . Several small restaurants, a couple museums, and the San Francisco Public Library's bookstore make this a nice destination on a sunny day.

If you find yourself with time, and a car, make your way over to Fort Point <http://www.nps.gov/fopo/index.htm> . You'll find yourself with the hands down most awesome and inspiring views of the Golden Gate Bridge possible, from, literally, underneath the bridge. From its vantage point overlooking the spectacular Golden Gate, Fort Point protected San Francisco harbor from Confederate & foreign attacks during & after the U.S. Civil War. Its beautifully arched casemates display the art of the master brick mason from the Civil War period. It's delightfully spooky to get lost in...

As for the rest of it...wander around and you'll see what you can find. It's not like any other place; I've lived here 25 years and there's plenty still to discover.

This Guide is primarily the creation of Chris Garcia, with additional contributions from, Neil Hopkins, Linda McAllister, Cheryl Morgan, Julie K. Rose, Spring Schoenhuth, Kevin Standlee, and Rina Weisman.

Where we are unable to test a restaurant some information was taken from reviews on www.yelp.com and www.metroactive.com.

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www.chelseadavison.com

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