

# Ethnic Eateries



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*When you have a city that reveres its restaurants and a population that's a bouillabaisse of international cultures, it's not surprising that you'll find a wonderful collection of ethnic eateries. Large, small, cheap and expensive—this diverse collection of restaurants will make you wonder why you spend all that money for an international trip when you could just come to San Francisco and experience it here! Restaurants are listed in order from high to low cost though none are overly expensive.*

## ASIAN CUISINES

### Chinese

#### TOMMY TOYS

Upscale, unique Chinese food, popular with business types from the Financial district, couples looking for that elegant date restaurant and locals alike. The lushness of the interior matches the fresh unusual ingredients to produce a one of a kind experience. 655 Montgomery, 397-4888 • [tommytoys.com](http://tommytoys.com)

#### R & G LOUNGE

For a more elegant setting at this Cantonese spot head to the upstairs dining room, favored by Asian businessmen for power lunches. For starters try the crisp salt-and-pepper shrimp. 631 Kearny St., 982-7877 • [rnglounge.com](http://rnglounge.com)

#### JAI YUN

Dining here is a real experience. The menu changes daily, according to what the chef buys that morning. Don't expect much in the way of décor or service, but do expect exceptional dishes like rose duck and velvet abalone. The menu offers a multi-course banquet of 16-20 dishes. 923 Pacific Ave., 981-7438

#### TON KIANG

Here you'll find great Hakka inspired dishes from southern China, like salt-baked chicken and clay-pot dishes. Dim Sum is also offered. Prices are moderate and the atmosphere is pleasant. 5821 Geary Blvd., 772-4200 • [tonkiang.net](http://tonkiang.net)

#### YANK SING

The two locations of Yank Sing are widely known for having some of the best dim sum around. Though the spaces are large, they have an upscale feel. 101 Spear St. (in the Rincon Center), 957-9300; 49 Stevenson St., 541-4949 • [yanksing.com](http://yanksing.com)

#### HOUSE OF NANKING

Consistently voted the favorite of locals, and it's on the edge of Chinatown. Look for the colorful sign and the long line! For authenticity it can't be beat. 919 Kearny St., 421-1429

#### HENRY'S HUNAN

This popular chain has 4 locations. Great inexpensive, creative Chinese don't miss Diana's Meat Pie. Good dumplings and unusual combinations make these bustling restaurants popular for large groups. 674 Sacramento, 788-2234; 924 Sansome, 956-7727; 1016 Bryant, 861-5808; 110 Natoma 546-4999

#### TAI CHI

This casual spot has been in business for over 20 years, despite being outside of Chinatown. Locals love the shrimp won ton soup and the General Tso's chicken which offers just the right balance of sweet, hot and savory. 2031 Polk 441-6758

## Indian

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### INDIAN OVEN

This bistro-style restaurant serves some great traditional northern Indian dishes like tandoori chicken and prawns in masala sauce. The cuisine is spicy and the prices are moderate. 237 Fillmore St., 626-1628 • indianovensf.com

### LITTLE DELHI

Despite the move up from a 5 table space in the heart of the tenderloin to a larger space just off Union Square the kitchen continues to produce top quality currys, and naan at rock bottom prices. 83 Eddy Street 398-3173

## Japanese

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### EBISU

Sushi lovers head here for a huge selection of creative rolls like the 49er with salmon and lemon wrapped around avocado, flying fish roe, and mint leaf. 1283 9th Ave., 566-1770 • ebisusushi.com

### NANBAN-TEI

Outpost of a well known Tokyo-based yakitori chain, this restaurant serves a large selection of skewered dishes from its charcoal grill. 101 Cyril Magnin St., 421-2101

### SAPPORO-YA

Looking for some comfort food? Head to this Japantown spot for a large bowl of slurpy udon noodles topped with fresh greens, bamboo shoots, and hard-cooked eggs. Prices are cheap and the food is so good! 1581 Webster St., 563-7400

### SANRAKU

Unbelievably fresh sushi takes center stage at this understated Japanese restaurant. 704 Sutter Street, 415.771.0803 • sanraku.com

## Korean

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### BROTHERS RESTAURANT

Touted as one of the best Korean restaurant's in SF – definitely for its' Korean BBQ. This place in the heart of the Inner Richmond is popular and gets crowded. So better go early and prepare to shop aggressively for a parking spot or come late, they are open until 2 am! 4128 Geary Boulevard 387-7991

## Thai

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### KHAN TOKE THAI HOUSE

Whether you come for the delicious cuisine or a lovely atmosphere, you're sure to be satisfied. Diners are asked to remove their shoes and sit at low tables overlooking an orchid-filled garden. Truly a special and popular place, so call ahead for a table. 5937 Geary 668-6654

### MANORA'S

This restaurant has been popular with locals for many years because of its consistently good food. The atmosphere is casually elegant and the service is gracious. Be sure to check out the daily specials. 1600 Folsom St., 861-6224 • manorathai.com

### THEP PHANOM

Dinner only at this small, elegantly handsome café. A popular choice for first-rate dishes like coconut chicken soup with seafood curry. 400 Waller St., 431-2526 • thepphanom.com

## *Vietnamese*

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### SUNFLOWER AUTHENTIC VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT

With two locations on the corner of 16th Street and Valencia, this is the spot to try yummy, well-sized portions including such favorites as lemon grass tofu that is just the right balance of spicy and sweet. An excellent meal for a very reasonable price. 506 Valencia St., 626-5022

### GOLDEN FLOWER

Try this cozy hole-in-the-wall joint that serves exceptional Pho. 667 Jackson St. (Chinatown) 415.433.6469

## *ECLECTIC/AROUND THE WORLD*

## *Cajun*

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### ELITE CAFÉ

Authentic Creole and Cajun cuisine with perfect little wooden booths that fit the restaurant's nostalgic theme. Popular with a hip, social crowd. 2049 Fillmore St., 673-5483 • theelitecafe.com

## *Cuban*

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### CHA CHA CHA

This is a yuppie haven amidst the hipdom of the Haight. A casual yet gaudy atmosphere makes this a fun place for swilling sangria and margaritas. The tapas are great and entrees are good. Come during the week because it is packed on the weekends. 1805 Haight St., 386-5758 and a larger space at 2327 Mission 824-1502 • cha3.com

### EL NUEVO FRUTILANDIA

Quite possibly the only restaurant in San Francisco offering a combination of Cuban and Puerto Rican food. The Mofongo, fried crushed plantain with crunchy pieces of pork is a popular favorite. They also do wonderful house made juices. 3077 24th Street (415) 648-2958

## *French*

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### CLEMENTINE

This unassuming Richmond spot serves top-notch cuisine at very affordable prices. The décor is charming and the service is warm and professional. 126 Clement St., 387-0408 • clementinesf.com

### LE CHARM

This charming little SOMA bistro serves a terrific three-course lunch for \$18. Don't miss it if you're in the neighborhood. 315 5th St., 546-6128 • lecharm.com

## *German*

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### SUPPENKUCHE

Diners share long tables at this cleanly designed Hayes Valley dinner spot. Specialties include venison steak with spaetzle, cranberry sauce and red cabbage. This is artfully traditional German food in a slightly non-traditional, really rather hip, setting. Of course, great German beers are to be had. They are also a popular weekend brunch destination. 601 Hayes St., 252-9289 • suppenkuche.com

## *Greek*

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### KOKKARI

San Francisco finally has a Greek restaurant worth recommending to all. The elegant, but welcoming décor is the perfect setting for flavorful dishes like moussaka and apple fritters with honey ice cream. 200 Jackson St., 981-0983 • kokkari.comItalian

## *Italian*

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### ANTICA TRATTORIA

A casual, yet chic dining spot that offers classic dishes. The corner location and vast windows help to give this restaurant a ‘happening’ vibe. 2400 Polk St., 928-5797 • anticaf.com

### CAFÉ MACARONI & SCIUE SCIUE

This teeny-tiny North Beach café is incredibly authentic and the service is friendly. Try any of their delicious pastas or entrees like braised lamb shank and polenta. 59 Columbus 956-9737 or the larger Sciue Sciue at 124 Columbus Ave., 214-8100 • caffemacaroni.com

### PERBACCO

At Perbacco you’ll enjoy a full range of flavors found in the Italian regions of Piedmont and Liguria. Don’t miss the house-made salami. 230 California St., 415-955-0663 • perbaccosf.com

## *Mexican*

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### COLIBRI MEXICAN BISTRO

Colibri serves traditional and diverse Mexican cuisine tapas style. Don’t miss their delicious margaritas and tableside guacamole with fresh corn tortillas. 438 Geary Street

### ROOSEVELT TAMALE PARLOR

This Mission spot has been drawing tamale loving diners for over 50 years! A full Mexican menu and seafood is also offered. You can expect tasty traditional food at very reasonable prices. 2817 24th St., 824-2600

## *Middle Eastern*

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### LA MEDITERRANEE

With 2 locations in San Francisco and one in Berkeley is a less expensive but tasty option for Middle Eastern food. The hummus is just the right blend of chickpeas, olive oil and garlic, they offer combination plates for individuals or for groups that allow you to taste all the best dishes. Intimate setting with friendly service. 288 Noe at Market 431-7210 and 2210 Fillmore 921-2956 • lamediterranee.net

## *Peruvian*

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### LIMON

This family run spot is bringing delicious dishes like sirloin sautéed with onions and tomatoes to happy satisfied customers. 524 Valencia St., 252-0918 • limon-sf.com

## *Russian*

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### KATIA’S – A RUSSIAN TEA ROOM

This pleasant little café serves wonderfully flaky piroshki, smoked salmon, beef stroganoff and more. The room is sunny and the service is friendly. Live music in the evenings. A wonderful choice for a Sunday brunch. 600 5th Ave., 668-9292

## Spanish and Basque

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If you haven't had a meal of tapas, you don't know what you're missing. Restaurants offering a variety of tapas dishes are on the upswing. Most are casual places with friendly service and low prices. The Mission District has several good spots to choose from:

RAMBLAS • 557 Valencia St., 565-0207 • ramblastapas.com

CHARANGA • 2351 Mission St., 282-1813 • charangasf.com

ANDALU • 3198 16th St., 621-2211 • andalusf.com

Bocadillos • 710 Montgomery Street, 415-982-2622 • bocasf.com

## Swiss

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### MATTERHORN

Fondue is the big draw here, but it's not the only reason to visit. The service is warm and friendly and the pace is relaxing.

2323 Van Ness Ave., 885-6116

## Ethiopian

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If you've never tried Ethiopian food, you must do so. It is spicy, hot, and the soft sponge-like bread you eat with is unlike anything you've ever tried. And the honeyed wine is a perfect foil to the spiciness of the food!

### RASSELAS

This place is built to showcase the live Jazz every night but the food is good too. It can be crowded after 8 pm but the vibe is as comfortable as the couches! 1534 Fillmore 349-8696 • rasselasjazzclub.com

### AXUM

Basic furniture and friendly owners coupled with great food make this a consistent favorite. The food is inexpensive and a great choice for large families or groups that want a unique dining experience. 698 Haight Street, 252-7912 • axumcafe.com

## American Soul Food

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### BLUE JAY CAFE

This restaurant bills itself as Southern food rather than soul food but has the standards of fried catfish, mac and cheese, fried chicken, greens and less soulful pot roast and chili. The bare bones space is enlivened by local art and is a popular brunch destination.

919 Divisadero 447-6066

### J's POTS O SOUL

This small down home spot tucked just off Octavia Boulevard has survived the destruction and reconstruction of the city's love/hate affair with freeways. That alone is testament enough to the quality of the food and the friendliness of the staff. Fried chicken, grits, and hush puppies share menu space with the must have pumpkin pancakes! Breakfast and Lunch only. 203 Octavia 831-3230

## Notes

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Let us know your off-the-beaten path recommendations so we may share them with other Joie de Vivre Hotels guests! Please return your suggestions to the front desk staff.

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