

StyleCity

# SAN FRANCISCO

Thames & Hudson



**1 Tonga Room**

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HOB HILL MIGAWAY

**2 Huntington Hotel**

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GOTHIC GRANDMA

**3 Grace Cathedral**

100 California Street

This Episcopalian place of worship sits on the site of a robber baron's former mansion (not adverse to earthly rewards, Charles Crocker once owned most of the block). Although its style is distinctly old Europe, the pseudo-Gothic structure is made of earthquake-safe poured concrete. And while quick by Gaudi standards, this cathedral took some time getting built — work began in 1927 and wrapped up in the mid-1960s. Among the appointments are a facade designed after Notre Dame, gilded bronze doors cast from molds of Lorenzo Ghilberti's "Gates of Paradise" in Florence's Baptistry, a rose window made in Chartres, English Carillon bells and a prayer labyrinth for barefoot pilgrims designed after the Chartres original. Among the modern touches are an AIDS interfaith Chapel with altarpiece by Keith Haring and windows that celebrate secular heroes such as Albert Einstein.

COST: \$-\$-\$

**4 Boulange de Polk**

2310 Polk Street

Like Pascal Riga's other bakeries, Boulange de Polk is authentically artisanal, and feels at home in this newly refurbished (and frankly francophilic) quarter of home and garden shops, antique stores and restaurants (his Petit Robert is a few doors away). The rustic breads are baked with organic flour and have a toothsome crust, and the pastries (caramel cannelés, goat-cheese and fig tart, chocolate chip madeleines) mingle French tradition with local ingredients. At breakfast and lunch (baguette sandwiches, toasted mirtines, salads) people jockey for space at the communal indoor table and sidewalk seating.

MAGNET DISHES

**5 Swallowtail**

2217 Polk Street

Interior designer Sheri Sheridan isn't a snob about provenance — she's as happy to display big old red-and-white

enamored gas station numbers as 19th-century art pottery, a 1920s collie-caddy-cum-coffee-table, hand-painted bust of Dante's Beatrice and a guild-era carpenter's sign. The room holds court next to the current and somehow it all tells a cohesive story. Across town, Sheridan's new venture, Noon (page 50), is uniting more than a dozen like-minded designer magpies under one roof.

FRESH OFF THE SHAT

**6 Swan Oyster Depot**

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ATTIC TREASURES

**7 Prize**

1415 Green Street

From the pink-and-red striped awning outside, to the collection of loving-cup trophies for swim meets, tennis matches and diving contests long past, Prize is a prettified trip-down collective memory lane. Old metal apothecary cabinets are filled with antique Steiff animals and puppets, which are joined by vintage glass-cake pedestals, pillows embroidered with the states of the Union, and funny children's toys, puzzles and books — all of which evoke a kind of warm and fuzzy nostalgia for an era before video games, George W. and global warming.

DRINKIN' FACTORY

**8 Bacchus Wine and Sake Bar**

1954 Hyde Street

**Sushi Groove**

1916 Hyde Street

When nightlife and music promoters Martel and Nahiel opened their first Sushi Groove, they spotted an empty room a few doors down the street, noted that it faced Jack Kerouac's former house, and deemed it to have lounge potential. With eight bar stools, some leather loveseats and a DJ, this intimate bar/art gallery is its own little chill space, where sake cocktails, about fifty wines from small producers (including Lehman) and very downtempo and deep house music create a laid-back Bacchanalia. You can come back the next morning from seven till noon for coffee and pastries baked by a veteran of Citizen Cake. Bacchus is also a fine place to nurse a sake Martini while waiting for a table at Sushi Groove, which makes up in creativity what it lacks in a kitchen. More laid-back than its sister restaurant across town, the blond wood bar serves up inspired combinations, such as a monkey roll (uni, unagi and avocado), tuna tartare salad and a seaweed salad sparked with chili flakes.