

San Francisco Chronicle

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER

Reprinted From

The San Francisco Chronicle

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1998

THE RESTAURANT PAGE

BAY AREA DINING *Capsule Reviews by Chronicle critics Michael Bauer, Maria Cianci and Robin Davis*

CRITICS' CHOICE: BEST POTSTICKERS IN SAN FRANCISCO

Gold Mountain 644 Broadway (near Stockton)	(415) 296-7733	★★½	\$\$	Lunch, dinner daily	Almost every dish is a winner at this bright, barn-sized restaurant; potstickers are especially good. — M.B.
Taiwan Restaurant 445 Clement St. (at Sixth Ave.)	(415) 387-1789	★★	\$	Lunch, dinner daily	Not all dishes are as good as they used to be, but the potstickers are still great. Good lion's head, too. — M.B.
Ton Kiang 5821 Geary Blvd. (at 22nd Ave.)	(415) 386-8530	★★★	\$\$-	Lunch, dinner daily	Bright restaurant serves great dim sum, and potstickers here are about the best in the city. — M.B.
Wing Lee 1810 Polk St. (near Jackson)	(415) 775-3210	★★	\$	Lunch and dinner Weds.-Mon.	Homey, family-run Chinese restaurant with reasonable prices and pork-filled potstickers bigger than at most places. — M.B.
Wu Kong 101 Spear St. (1 Rincon Center)	(415) 957-9300	★★	\$\$	Lunch, dinner daily	Potstickers at this majestic Shanghai-style restaurant are wonderful. Sizzling shrimp soup, lion's head are good, too. — M.B.
Yank Sing 427 Battery St. (near Clay)	(415) 781-1111	★★★	\$	Lunch daily	Terrific dim sum is served by helpful staff in bright and bustling surroundings. — M.B.

RESTAURANT ROUNDUP: SAN FRANCISCO

Delancey Street Restaurant 600 Embarcadero (at Brannan)	(415) 512-5179	★★½	\$\$	L Tu.-F., d. Tu.-Su., brn. Sa.-Su.	Excellent prices, good solid cooking at this restaurant staffed by people trying to rebuild their lives. — M.B.
Firecracker 1007 Valencia St. (near 21st St.)	(415) 642-3470	★★½	\$\$	Lunch Tues.-Sat., dinner Tues.-Sun.	Sizzling Chinese food like firecracker chicken and twice-cooked pork are great at this hopping Mission restaurant. — R.D.
Gordon Biersch 2 Harrison St. (at Embarcadero)	(415) 243-8246	★½	\$\$	Lunch, dinner daily	Redesigned menu with good barbecued salmon, but kitchen needs more practice on most dishes. — M.B.
Samos Pier 33 (at Bay St.)	(415) 391-0333	★★	\$\$\$	Lunch weekdays, dinner daily	Beautiful interior with view of the bay adds to the excellent small plates. Large plates can be hit or miss, as can service. — M.B.
Thirstybear 661 Howard St. (near Hawthorne Lane)	(415) 974-0905	★★½	\$\$	Lunch Mon.-Sat., dinner daily	The interior and service can seem chilly, but the wonderful tapas menu is filled with must-try dishes. — M.B.

EAST BAY

Bay Wolf 3853 Piedmont Ave., Oakland	(510) 655-6004	★★★	\$\$\$	Lunch weekdays, dinner daily	Chef Lauren Lyle features a menu from a different region of the Mediterranean every three weeks at this comfortable restaurant. — M.B.
Breads of India 2448 Sacramento St. (Dwight), Berkeley	(510) 848-7684	★★½	\$	Lunch Mon.-Sat., dinner daily	Excellent Indian breads, solid execution of entrees, good value at this small restaurant. Service can be slow when it's busy. — R.D.
Prima 1522 North Main St., Walnut Creek	(510) 935-7780	★★	\$\$	Lunch Mon.-Sat., dinner daily	This trattoria beckons with rustic decor and lusty Italian-inspired fare. Excellent pasta with rabbit sauce. — M.C.
Skylight Cafe 2320 Central Ave. (near Park), Alameda	(510) 865-4615	★★	\$\$	Dinner Mon.-Sat.	Comfortable atmosphere and satisfying old-fashioned Italian fare at this neighborhood spot. Wonderful rabbit, cheesecake. — M.C.

NORTH BAY

Brava Terrace 3010 St. Helena Hwy., St. Helena	(707) 963-9300	★★	\$\$	Lunch, dinner Thurs.-Tues.	One of Napa Valley's loveliest restaurants for a casual meal, but the menu can be uneven. Fireplaces indoors. — M.C.
Chrysanthemum 2214 Fourth St., San Rafael	(415) 456-6926	★★	\$\$	Lunch Su.-M., W.-F., dinner M., W.-Su.	A gracious, family-run restaurant for nicely prepared Chinese dishes. Attentive service, excellent soups. — M.C.
El Paseo 17 Throckmorton Ave., Mill Valley	(415) 388-0741	★★	\$\$\$	Dinner daily	Classic French fare; snails, onion soup, duck, duck liver mousse in one of the Bay Area's most romantic restaurants. — M.C.
North Sea Village 300 Turney St. (at Bridgeway), Sausalito	(415) 331-3300	★★	\$\$	Lunch, dinner daily	Decent dim sum in a pretty location away from the crush of tourists makes this spot worth visiting. — R.D.

PENINSULA AND SOUTH BAY

Amber India 2290 El Camino Real, Mountain View	(650) 968-7511	★★★	\$\$\$	Lunch, dinner daily	Leading Bay Area Indian restaurant for professional service and unusual dishes. Serene dining room. — M.C.
Bistro Elan 448 California Ave., Palo Alto	(650) 327-0284	★★½	\$\$\$	Lunch Tues.-Fri., dinner Tues.-Sat.	Sophisticated neighborhood spot for classic and creative fare. Excellent fish stew, desserts. — R.D.
Swagat Indian Cuisine 2700 El Camino Real, Mountain View	(650) 948-7727	★★½	\$\$	Lunch, dinner daily	Long list of Indian appetizers and tandoori breads. Many vegetarian options. Good service. — R.D.