



Photos by Liz Hafalla / The Chronicle

Crossroads, a Delancey Street cafe, above, has an outside patio in back for those who prefer a park-like atmosphere to the comfy leather couches inside. Menu choices include a bacon, avocado, lettuce and tomato sandwich, below, perhaps served with iced tea.

BARGAIN BITE

:: Crossroads Cafe :: This restaurant is set up so that you could come in for a meal and stay for a week. Run by the Delancey Street Foundation — an organization that provides lodging and help for addicts and felons — the bright cafe is part restaurant, part living room, and part bookstore-newsstand.

For breakfast, grab an egg sandwich on a bagel or a signature smoothie before plunking yourself down on one of the comfortable leather couches with a magazine, or eat lunch out on the back patio. By dinnertime, the scene is more subdued, with singles perched at small tables reading books or tapping on their computers, or neighborhood residents picking up food to take back to their SoMa lofts. Magazines and books are for sale, but racks are also filled with reading



Vitals: 699 Delancey St. (near Embarcadero), San Francisco. (415) 836-5624. Breakfast, lunch daily; dinner Mon.-Sat. Beer and wine. Credit cards accepted.

material to borrow.

Sandwiches, platters, salads and tapas make up the menu, which features items such as a blackened chicken breast with Cajun butter on a kaiser roll (\$5.95) and an oozing grilled cheese sandwich with tomatoes on griddled sourdough bread (\$5.70).

In the mood for something lighter? Go for the seared ahi salad on mixed greens (\$7.95) or a snack of garlicky hummus with pita points (\$3.25).

House-made baked goods such as lemon poppy seed cake (\$3.20) and dark gingerbread (\$3.80) will curb a dessert craving, or simply grab a beer or glass of wine to wind down the evening. It'll feel just like home.

— Amanda Gold, agold@sfgchronicle.com