



2019  
TOP 100  
RESTAURANTS



# TOP 100 TABLE OF CONTENTS

## THE LIST

A16	6	Maum	44
Acquerello	6	Meadowood	46
Akiko's	7	Mensho Tokyo	47
AL's Place	8	Mestiza	28
Angler	9	Minnie Bell's	47
Atelier Crenn	10	Miss Ollie's	48
August 1 Five	10	Mister Jiu's	49
Balompie No. 3	11	Montesacro	49
Beit Rima	12	The Morris	52
Benu	13	Mourad	52
Bini's Kitchen	14	Nightbird	53
Bix	15	Nopa	54
Boulettes Larder	15	Nyum Bai	54
Brenda's French Soul Food	16	Okkon	55
Cafe Jacqueline	17	Old Mandarin Islamic	56
Cafe Ohlone	17	Original Joe's Westlake	56
Cala	25	Outerlands	57
Californios	25	Pearl 1601/Pizzetta 221	58
Cellarmaker House of Pizza	18	Pinoy Heritage	58
Charter Oak	19	Piperade	59
Chibog	20	Plaj	60
Commis	20	Ramen Shop	60
Commonwealth	21	Red's Java House	61
Cotogna	22	Reem's California	62
Del Popolo	23	Rich Table	62
El Buen Comer	26	Rico Rico Taco	28
El Farolito	26	Rintaro	63
El Molino Central	27	Rooh	64
El Pipila	28	San Jalisco	30
Fish	31	Saul's Restaurant & Deli	64
FOB Kitchen	31	The Sentinel	65
Foreign Cinema	32	Single Thread	68
Francisca's	32	Soba Ichi	69
The French Laundry	33	SPQR	69
Gialina	34	Standard Fare	70
Great China	34	State Bird Provisions	70
Heirloom	35	Swan Oyster Depot	71
HoDaLa	36	Taqueria El Castillito	30
House of Prime Rib	37	Tartine Manufactory	72
In Situ	38	Terra Cotta Warrior	73
Isla Vida	39	Tommy's Joynt	73
Ju-Ni	39	True Laurel	74
Kin Khao	40	Verjus	75
Koi Palace	40	Vientian Cafe	75
Kyain Kyain	41	Vik's Chaat	76
La Ciccia	42	Wojia Hunan Cuisine	76
Lazy Bear	42	Yamo	77
Liholiho Yacht Club	43	Yuanbao Jiaozi	78
Lord Stanley	44	Z&Y Restaurant	78
Madcap	44	Zuni Cafe	79

## BY CUISINE

<b>Arab/North African</b>		Zuni Cafe	79
Beit Rima	12	<b>Japanese</b>	
Mourad	52	Akiko's	7
Reem's California	62	Ju-Ni	39
<b>British</b>		Mensho Tokyo	47
Lord Stanley	44	Okkon	55
<b>Burmese</b>		Ramen Shop	60
Kyain Kyain	41	Rintaro	63
Yamo	77	Single Thread	68
<b>Cambodian</b>		Soba Ichi	69
Nyum Bai	54	<b>Jewish</b>	
<b>Caribbean</b>		Saul's Restaurant & Deli	64
Isla Vida	39	<b>Korean</b>	
Miss Ollie's	47	Benu	13
<b>Chinese/Taiwanese</b>		Maum	44
Benu	13	<b>Lao</b>	
Great China	34	Vientian Cafe	75
HoDaLa	36	<b>Mexican</b>	
Koi Palace	40	Cala	25
Mister Jiu's	49	Californios	25
Old Mandarin Islamic	56	El Buen Comer	26
Terra Cotta Warrior	73	El Farolito	26
Wojia Hunan Cuisine	76	El Molino Central	27
Yuanbao Jiaozi	78	El Pipila	28
Z&Y Restaurant	78	Mestiza	28
<b>Filipino</b>		Rico Rico Taco	28
Chibog	20	San Jalisco	30
FOB Kitchen	31	Taqueria El Castillito	30
Mestiza	28	<b>Modern Californian</b>	
Pinoy Heritage	58	AL's Place	8
<b>French</b>		Angler	9
Atelier Crenn	10	Benu	13
Cafe Jacqueline	17	Bix	15
Verjus	75	Boulettes Larder	15
<b>Indian</b>		Cafe Ohlone	17
August 1 Five	10	Charter Oak	19
Rooh	64	Commis	20
Vik's Chaat	76	Commonwealth	21
<b>Italian</b>		Del Popolo	26
A16	6	Foreign Cinema	32
Acquerello	6	The French Laundry	33
Cotogna	22	Heirloom	35
Del Popolo	23	In Situ	38
Francisca's	32	Kin Khao	40
Gialina	34	Lazy Bear	42
La Ciccia	42	Lord Stanley	44
Montesacro	49	Madcap	44
Original Joe's Westlake	56	Maum	44
Pearl 6101/ Pizzetta 221	58	Meadowood	46
SPQR	69	Mister Jiu's	49

➤ **CONTRIBUTORS:** Janelle Bitker (J.B.), Tara Duggan (T.D.), Soleil Ho (S.H.), Jonathan Kauffman (J.K.), Paolo Lucchesi (P.L.), Esther Moble (E.M.), Kitty Morgan (K.M.), Justin Phillips (J.P.), Urmila Ramakrishnan (U.R.)

## BY LOCATION

The Morris	52
Mourad	52
Nightbird	53
Nopa	54
Outerlands	57
Rich Table	62
Single Thread	68
Standard Fare	70
State Bird Provisions	70
Tartine Manufactory	72
True Laurel	74
Zuni Cafe	79
<b>Nepali</b>	
Bini's Kitchen	14
<b>Old School</b>	
House of Prime Rib	37
Red's Java House	61
Swan Oyster Depot	71
Tommy's Joynt	73
<b>Pacific Islands</b>	
Liholiho Yacht Club	43
<b>Regional American</b>	
Brenda's French Soul Food	16
Cafe Ohlone	17
Cellarmaker House of Pizza	18
Minnie Bell's	47
<b>Salvadoran</b>	
Balompie No. 3	11
<b>Sandwiches</b>	
Saul's Restaurant & Deli	64
The Sentinel	65
<b>Scandinavian</b>	
Plaj	60
<b>Seafood</b>	
Akiko's	7
Angler	9
Fish	31
Ju-Ni	39
Swan Oyster Depot	71
<b>Spanish/Basque</b>	
Piperade	59
Verjus	75
<b>Thai</b>	
Kin Khao	40
<b>Venezuelan</b>	
Francisca's	32

### SAN FRANCISCO

A16	6	Liholiho Yacht Club	43
Acquerello	6	Lord Stanley	44
Akiko's	7	Mensho Tokyo	47
AL's Place	8	Mestiza	28
Angler	9	Mister Jiu's	49
Atelier Crenn	10	Montesacro	49
August 1 Five	10	The Morris	52
Balompie No. 3	11	Mourad	52
Beit Rima	12	Nightbird	53
Benu	13	Nopa	54
Bini's Kitchen	14	Old Mandarin Islamic	56
Bix	15	Outerlands	57
Boulettes Larder	15	Pearl 1601/Pizzetta 221	58
Brenda's French Soul Food	16	Pinoy Heritage	58
Cafe Jacqueline	17	Piperade	59
Cala	25	Plaj	60
Californios	25	Red's Java House	61
Cellarmaker House of Pizza	18	Rich Table	62
Commonwealth	21	Rintaro	63
Cotogna	22	Rooh	64
Del Popolo	23	San Jalisco	30
El Buen Comer	26	The Sentinel	65
El Farolito	26	SPQR	69
El Pipila	28	State Bird Provisions	70
Foreign Cinema	32	Swan Oyster Depot	71
Francisca's	32	Taqueria El Castillito	30
Gialina	34	Tartine Manufactory	72
Heirloom	35	Terra Cotta Warrior	73
HoDaLa	36	Tommy's Joynt	73
House of Prime Rib	37	True Laurel	74
In Situ	38	Verjus	75
Isla Vida	39	Yamo	77
Ju-Ni	39	Yuanbao Jiaozhi	78
Kin Khao	40	Z&Y Restaurant	78
La Ciccica	42	Zuni Cafe	79
Lazy Bear	42		

### EAST BAY

Cafe Ohlone	17	Ramen Shop	60
Commis	20	Reem's California	62
FOB Kitchen	31	Rico Rico Taco	28
Great China	34	Saul's Restaurant & Deli	64
Kyain Kyain	41	Soba Ichi	69
Minnie Bell's	47	Standard Fare	70
Miss Ollie's	48	Vientian Cafe	75
Nyum Bai	54	Vik's Chaat	76
Okkon	55	Wojia Hunan Cuisine	76

### NORTH BAY

Charter Oak	19
El Molino Central	27
Fish	31
The French Laundry	33
Madcap	44
Meadowood	46
Single Thread	68

### SOUTH OF SAN FRANCISCO

Chibog	20
Koi Palace	40
Maum	44
Original Joe's Westlake	56

### EXPLORE ONLINE

➔ Hungry for more Top 100 coverage throughout the year? Check out our interactive guide online at [www.sfchronicle.com/top100](http://www.sfchronicle.com/top100). There you can search restaurants, save your own list and find curated guides to Bay Area dining.



Is there a restaurant you think deserves consideration for next year's list? Send feedback to [food@sfchronicle.com](mailto:food@sfchronicle.com). Follow Chronicle restaurant critic Soleil Ho as she dines around the Bay Area. Subscribe to Bite Curious, a weekly newsletter: [www.sfchronicle.com/newsletters/bite-curious/](http://www.sfchronicle.com/newsletters/bite-curious/)



# SOBA ICHI

**Pro tip:** Make a reservation or prepare to wait. And if you want one of Soba Ichi's 20 servings of gluten-free, 100 percent buckwheat noodles, make sure you snag a table right when the restaurant opens at 5 p.m.

**Order:** Soba, obviously. The 100 percent buckwheat soba (\$16) and slightly glutinous soba (\$14) are both lovely straight up. For a hot, brothy version, try the namako-oroshi soba (\$17) with mushrooms. Don't forget the soba tea mousse (\$7) for dessert.

2311-A Magnolia St., Oakland. 510-465-1969 or [www.sobaichi-oakland.com](http://www.sobaichi-oakland.com). Dinner Wed.-Sun. Reservations and credit cards accepted.

— J.B.

▲ AT SOBA ICHI IN WEST OAKLAND, CHEF KOICHI ISHII SHOWCASES HIS HANDMADE SOBA NOODLES IN AN ORDER OF TEN-SEIRO SOBA, SERVED WITH TEMPURA AND A SOY-MIRIN DIPPING SAUCE.

# SPQR

➤ Restaurants like SPQR, State Bird and Rich Table are part of the wave of restaurants that have subverted fine dining in a way that's very good for diners, bringing high-end, high-effort cooking to more accessible settings. In any other era, SPQR chef Matthew Accarrino's complex dishes — chicken liver mousse with balsamic gelatina (\$18), handmade Meyer lemon linguine with abalone and bottarga (\$34) — would be confined to a prix-fixe format, not an a la carte menu.

**Favorite detail:** Do note how tiny the SPQR kitchen is. That's it. Nothing else. Then note how sprawling the a la carte menu is — with dessert, more than three dozen dishes. And then, for the last part, note how many labor-intensive components go into each plate, and how nearly everything is made in house. Accarrino and his team perform miracles to put out this menu from that kitchen.

**Pro tip:** As at sister restaurant A16, you'll be hard pressed to recognize most of the wines on the list at SPQR, so let the staff guide you.

**Order:** Pasta, pasta, pasta. In particular, opt for any lasagna dish. I'm also partial to the dishes that combine creative extruded pasta with a deep braise and some textural tricks, like the mustard capellini with guinea hen ragu, savoy cabbage and Mimolette cheese, or bucatini with blue cheese, walnut, kale and sage brown butter. These are familiar flavor profiles, set in unexpected ways — part of the reason that San Francisco has become a center for creative pasta in the United States.

1911 Fillmore St., San Francisco. 415-771-7779 or [www.spqrsf.com](http://www.spqrsf.com). Dinner nightly, lunch weekends. Reservations and credit cards accepted.

— P.L.



▲ BROCCOLI AND MUSHROOM WITH AGED GOUDA "BUDINO DI PANE" AND ACORN HAM AT SPQR IN S.F.