

Restaurants in the Oakland Area

**College Avenue
Piedmont-Lake Merritt
Old Oakland
Chinatown
Broadway
Jack London Square**

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Introduction 0

This is the Oakland section of Restaurants in the Berkeley Area. It has been on the Web at <http://RNC.LBL.gov/RestOak/> since 2003. The authors alone are responsible for the information provided and the opinions expressed.

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News 1

Since the last revision the following restaurants are **new**: Beer Baron, Mockingbird. new, but not yet reviewed: Bel Campo, CDP Bar, Chow, Copper Spoon, Dosa by Dosa, Dyafa, Hawker Bird, La Boulangerie, Parlour, Perle Wine Bar, Tay Ho. closed: BaBite, Chu, Desco, Duchess, Juhu Beach Club, KronnerBurger, Marica, Michel Bistro, Pacific Coast Brewing, Sahn Maru, Tribune Tower.

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College Avenue

Mitama 3
 3201 College Ave. at Alcatraz 652-6157

At the Berkely-Oakland border, you will find this corner storefront Japanese restaurant. There's a small sushi bar, the tables are nicely spaced, and the modern atmosphere is quiet. Service is friendly and families are welcome. The sushi is decent, the donburi generous and tasty, but the tempura tends to be a little greasy. The dinner prices are slightly high end. There's a good choice of sake, too. A nice place for lunch. Worth a try if you are in the area.

Wood Tavern 4
 6317 College Ave. south of Alcatraz 654-6607

This extremely noisy, lively and very popular place offers delicious California eclectic cuisine in a gorgeously designed space. The food prices are fairly high, there are many unusual wine choices, all too expensive, and some great cocktails too. The chef is particularly good with the meat dishes. Don't expect to hear your dinner partners in the din, just sit back, enjoy the food, and talk later. Crowded even at lunch.

Southie 5
 6311 College Ave. at 63rd 654-0100

This very small, very informal place, a spin off from Wood Tavern next door has a few tables and a counter, a fun loving staff, and a dynamite chef. Everything on the menu is superb and the prices are very moderate for the quality of the food. Wine and beer, also. My favorite is the "Pulled Piggie", but a close second is the fried chicken salad. Although it's great for take out, I like to sit at the counter and watch the chef perform.

Noodle Theory 6
 6099 Claremont Ave. at College 595-6988

If you love noodles and vivid fresh flavors this is the place for you. A small pie shaped modern space, with some outdoor tables for warm days, the food is well cooked with nice Asian fusion touches, balanced and subtly spiced. Lots of vegetarian choices also. The prices are very reasonable for the quality of the food. Service can falter when the place is crowded, but it's worth the wait. See also Noodle Theory Provisions.

Osmanthus 7
 6048 College Ave. south of Claremont 923-1233

This space used to be a popular Burmese restaurant but it has been transformed to feature Pan-Asian Fusion cuisine in a cool and classic modern setting. Prices are moderate, but the food is variable, and the spicing often quite subtle rather than bold and enticing. There are cocktails as well as wine and beer, and the noise level is at a level that allows one to have a conversation.

Barney's Hamburgers 8
 5819 College Ave. north of Rockridge BART 601-0444

A branch of a popular chain (others are on Solano Ave., on Shattuck Ave. at Cedar, and on Piedmont Ave.). Good for huge hamburgers with all kinds of toppings, soups, large salads, milk shakes, wine and beer. The French fries are terrific, and a half-order is plenty! I think that this Barney's and the one on Piedmont are the best because of the lovely shady patios in back, which are wonderful for eating on a warm day.

Ramen Shop 9
 5812 College Ave. north of Rockridge BART 788-6370

One of the first places offering a modern approach to traditional Japanese ramen noodles; this became instantly popular. The large crowds are no longer there, but the small menu still changes every few days, with different broths, chewy noodles, and eclectic toppings. There are also some appetizers, rice dishes, and not too sweet desserts, as well as a hip bar. The food tends to be quite salty, so be forewarned. Prices moderately high, no reservations.

Oliveto

10

5655 College Ave. at Rockridge BART

547-5356

This two level place has expensive Mediterranean cuisine upstairs, which can be very good or less so, depending on the choice. Specially themed dinners are often quite good. Wines are outrageously overpriced. Good service but noisy. Reservations recommended. Unfortunately, this is not one of my favorites. Downstairs is an all day cafe, with lower prices, decent food, and no need to reserve. It has light fare with a few more substantial dishes in the evening.

A Coté

11

5478 College Ave. at Forest

655-6469

A popular place, this storefront space has been transformed into a plush, dimly lit, intimate cafe featuring French bistro food, along with a large selection of wines and cocktails. Prices are moderate. The food has noticeably improved, and it's definitely worth a try. If the deep fried squash blossoms are on the menu, order them! The interior can get pretty noisy, but the expanded back patio is blissfully quiet.

Molinari Enoteca

12

5474 College Ave at Taft

428-4078

A very small friendly place with six tables and counter seating. There is no outside signage, but it's worth seeking out for some delicious food and wine. The menu features snacks, salumi, and small plates, but the best items are the crostini and the creative, delicious house made pastas. The flourless chocolate cake is superb too! The quality of the cooking is very fine. Recommended.

Soi4

13

5421 College Ave.

655-0889

An upscale Thai restaurant in Rockridge, located in a serene architecturally beautiful space. There is a full bar, with a large choice of cocktails. The food has all of the standards, along with some unique dishes, and it is very tasty. The tables are nicely spaced, perfect for intimate conversation, and the service is solicitous. The owners gear this towards a glamorous crowd, so all of this comes with somewhat higher prices than other similar places.

Uzen

14

5415 College Ave.

654-7753

In a small storefront in the Rockridge area you will find this spare, high ceilinged, eclectically decorated Japanese restaurant. The small menu features sushi, along with noodle and rice dishes. The sushi is fresh but the choice is often small. At lunch, prices are moderate, but dinner can get pricey. There's a large selection of sakes along with Japanese beers. Can get quite crowded on weekend nights.

Belotti

15

5403 College Ave.

788-7890

This small storefront restaurant has fabulous pasta, probably some of the best in the Bay Area. Tables close together, noisy at times, friendly service, decent prices. It should be on your list to try. Reservations essential for dinner, and probably also for lunch. Other menu items are also delicious but pasta in many shapes is the draw here. A pasta take out place is now open on Piedmont Avenue, so check it out.

A16

16

5356 College Ave. at Hudson

768-8003

An East Bay offshoot of one of San Francisco's most popular upscale Italian restaurants has been crowded since opening day. There's a huge bar as well as large dining room filled with people enjoying excellent creative pizzas, pastas and a few more substantial main dishes. Prices are high end, service quick and professional, it should definitely be on your list to try.

Pucquio

17

5337 College Ave

658-7378

Formerly a little known pop-up, this Peruvian restaurant is offering some very tasty contemporary interpretations of an unfamiliar cuisine. The Peruvian "cebiches" are delicious and unusual. This is a small space with a delightfully friendly staff. Prices are moderately high for the portion size, but it is definitely worth a try.

Pizzaiolo

18

5008 Telegraph Ave. south of 51st

652-4888

Extremely popular, this is a great Italian restaurant offering unusual thin crusted pizzas, along with creative delicious pastas. The menu choices change often, but everything is wonderful. Reservations are taken so there's no need to wait. Wines are decently priced and there's a good selection of beers. There's a lovely heated back patio also. The friendly service can be slow when crowded, but do not miss this fine place!

Dona Tomas

19

5004 Telegraph Ave. south of 51st

450-0522

Take yourself to this popular Temescal place to discover a menu of Mexican food with a Modern Californian flair. The restaurant consists of adjoining storefronts decorated with folk art, as well as a lovely heated patio out back. The food is tasty and different, if not truly great, the prices moderately high, the service professional and friendly. There is a large choice of excellent cocktails to enhance your dining, as well as fairly priced wine.

Bowl'd BBQ 20
 4869 Telegraph Ave. 654-2000

This is a clean and modern place that features Korean barbecue, fried chicken, rice bowls, stews, and other typical Korean food. The cooking is somewhat westernized, but still tasty, if not fiery hot. Portions are large and prices moderate. The Temescal location means that it can get crowded on the weekends, but it is a good place for families and for an introduction to this cuisine.

Burma Superstar 21
 4721 Telegraph Ave. at 48th 652-2900

Another informal place in the lively Temescal neighborhood, this place is relatively unmarked, but that doesn't deter the crowds that show up every night to feast on unique, often spicy Burmese food at moderate prices. It's a great place for lunch too, when it is more quiet and uncrowded. Popular dishes are the tea leaf salad, the samusa salad, and the spicy green beans. The decoration is simple, the service friendly, if not professional.

22

Piedmont Ave Lake Merritt

Wolf 23
 3853 Piedmont Ave. 655-6004

The interior has been remodeled from Bay Wolf, but the gorgeous hearted deck is still there in this reincarnation of a Bay Area treasure. New owners (from Wood Tavern), new chef, the cooking is straightforward, comforting and well executed, if not inventive. Service is attentive and professional, and prices are high. It's still one of the better places around if you know what to expect.

Commis 24
 3859 Piedmont Ave. 653-8902

This very special small storefront place was awarded a Michelin star, reflecting the complex, elegant, personal, and creative food produced by a visionary young chef. It features a fixed price very expensive menu of an array of small dishes reflecting modern haute cuisine. Everything is exquisitely presented. Flavors are unique, service professional. Good for a celebratory occasion.

Homestead 25
 4029 Piedmont Ave. at 40th St. Way 420-6962

Delightful and delicious California inspired food, both traditional and inventive. It features local and sustainable ingredients and an open wood fired brick oven. The setting is informal, with an open kitchen, but the food is sophisticated, French influenced, and the service professional. Prices are somewhat high, but worth it. This is one of my favorites.

Bar César 26
 4039 Piedmont Ave. at 40th 985-1200

An Oakland branch of a Berkeley favorite, it offers a large and lively space. The well priced menu has been revamped to showcase the spicy robust flavors of Latin America, but the execution is not always successful. It's open throughout the day until fairly late at night. It has great cocktails as well as an extensive wine and beer list. The ambiance is both friendly and sophisticated. This is a fine, if noisy, place for hanging out.

Xyclo 27
 4218 Piedmont Ave. at Ridgeway 654-2681

Wonderful upscale Vietnamese food in a nicely decorated small storefront. The Vietnamese rolls and the crepe are especially delicious and inventive, but everything on the menu is fresh and tasty, with lots of vegetarian choices. Prices are moderate for the quality of the food, service is friendly, and even the wines are moderately priced. Definitely recommended!

Dopo 28
 4293 Piedmont Ave. near Echo 652-dopo

This cafe occupies two adjoining storefronts, with a few outside tables. The cooking is terrific -- fresh and seasonal. The menu is limited -- small plates, creative pizzas, panini, salads, and pastas. The menu now includes Sicilian specialties. Everything is really delicious, but the panini are my lunch favorites. Service friendly and personal. No reservations taken, so try to go at an off hour. Open for lunch on weekdays, too. This is definitely a highly recommended place.

Boot and Shoe Service 29
 3308 Grand Ave. up from Grand Lake 763-2668

This is a former shoe repair shop turned into a very popular, lively, and friendly informal pizza joint. The pizzas are just terrific, some of the best around. This place is very noisy with exposed brick walls and tables close together. The wait persons are young and trendy. Open for lunch with panini and salads that you order at the counter.

Penrose

30

3311 Grand Ave. opposite Boot and Shoe 444-1649

By the same owners as Boot and Shoe Service. With spectacular architecture, great decoration, an enormous wood fireplace equipped with three big grills, the effect is dramatic and over the top. The really tasty food is mostly small plates, focused on Mediterranean influenced meat and vegetables. Prices are somewhat high for the portion size. There's a huge bar, too. The atmosphere is noisy but it is a fine experience.

Camino

31

3917 Grand Ave. at Crofton 547-5035

Located in a large storefront, the decor is Farmhouse rustic/Old English church. Seating is mostly at one of two very long refectory tables. The very small menu changes daily, and the food is minimalist, pure, organic and sustainable, with a choice of only a few appetizers and main dishes, mostly cooked in the fireplace or wood burning oven. All this comes with high end prices, including the wine. If this is your style, go for it -- if not, be warned.

Shakewell

32

3407 Lakeshore Ave. above Trestle Glen Rd. 251-0329

This place has Spanish-Mediterranean food, and reasonable prices. Lively, noisy, informal, the food is really good and the wines moderately priced. I especially like the various appetizers and the Bombas, a hearty and generously portioned version of paella, easily shared. The service is welcoming. Reserve if you want a table, otherwise there is seating at the bar or at high tops.

Caña

33

530 Lake Park Ave. at Lakeshore Ave. 832-1515

This Cuban restaurant is not completely authentic, but will have to do until something else comes along. There are two side by side spaces, with low priced counter service on one side, and next to it a lively and noisy space with table service, a large bar, and music. The food is delicious and it's best to stick to the simpler items, such as the empanadas, the fried chicken and the sandwiches. There's a small front patio where you can relax and watch the crowds walk by.

Bellanico

34

4238 Park Blvd. at Wellington 336-1180

Small and friendly, this lovely Italian restaurant is a neighborhood favorite, featuring delicious food, wonderful wine, and moderate prices. The appetizers are inventive and delicious, the pastas can be ordered in half portions and you can easily put together a terrific meal. It's worth the trip to this area, a small enclave of shops, cafes, and restaurants.

Sidebar

35

542 Grand Ave. opposite the Lake 452-9500

This informal wine bar and restaurant is a welcome addition to the neighborhood. Open through out the day (yeah!) it offers both lunch and dinner menus, as well as small "in between" snacks for late afternoon. The menu ranges from sandwiches and salads to more substantial fare, the prices moderate, and the atmosphere delightful. The food can be really delicious or merely good, depending on the choice.

Grand Lake Kitchen

36

576 Grand Ave. 922-9582

This small neighborhood deli/cafe is located across from Lake Merritt and is wildly popular, especially at lunch and brunch. It offers good and generous salads and sandwiches but it's the breakfast items that are the real standouts. Dinner offers more substantial fare. Friendly service, nice atmosphere, with a large bar too. Reservations essential, especially for the patio. Parking a challenge during the day, less so at night.

Lake Chalet

37

1520 Lakeside Dr. btw. 14th and 17th 208-LAKE

Nothing can compete with the spectacular views at this gorgeous complex of spaces built from the old Lake Merritt Boathouse. Open for lunch and dinner it is a wonderful addition to Oakland, and a destination that should not be missed. The food is more variable and can be very good or not, depending on your choice. Prices are high end, and the service well meaning if not always totally professional. Parking can be a problem.

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Old Oakland**Old Oakland**

39

Washington between 8th and 10th Sts.

This is an area of Oakland that is an intriguing architectural mix of renovated Old Victorians, gentrified condominiums, and hard edge modern office buildings, centered around Washington Street, but extending a bit in other directions. It has a wonderful array of small cafes with outdoor tables and restaurants, as well as shops and galleries. There's a crowded and popular Farmers Market on Fridays. Very lively during the day, and increasingly popular at night too.

Le Cheval 40
 1007 Clay St. 763-8957

This place is crowded, very popular, and features Vietnamese food with a huge menu and moderate prices. Lunch is a real bargain, and the service speedy. It can get really noisy when full, so beware. The cuisine features lots of meat dishes, but there are a number of vegetarian choices too. There is also a busy take-out counter. Be prepared for long waits on weekend nights.

The Cook and Her Farmer 41
 907 Washington St. 285-6140

This very casual place is a welcome addition to the Swan's Market complex of restaurants. The food features excellent fresh seafood along with some Southern specialties. The mussels are exquisite. Prices are very moderate. There is counter seating as well as seating in the market's communal space. Definitely recommended to try!

Cosecha 42
 907 Washington St. in Swan's Market 452-5900

Located inside Swan's Market, which is being revitalized, is this gem of a restaurant offering wonderful Mexican food, really delicious and moderately priced. Bare bones decor, it is a great place for lunch, although it is also open for early dinners and Saturday brunch. Beer and wine also. You order at the counter, sit back, look out at the windows and sky, and enjoy the food when it arrives with a smile. This is a great place for sharing. Highly recommended.

Miss Ollie's 43
 901 Washington St. 385-6188

Another restaurant gem in Swan's Market, this place offers a delicious eclectic menu ranging from Caribbean specialties to fabulous Southern Fried Chicken, available only on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The chef is well known in the Bay area, and this place, named after her grandmother, reflects her personal perspective. Everything is wonderful and not to be missed. Prices are moderate.

Ratto's 44
 821 Washington St. below 9th 832-6503

A classic that's been around forever, complete with dim lighting, wood floors, and bins of beans and pasta, this old fashioned Continental Italian deli offers an eclectic array of things to buy, along with large inexpensive sandwiches, panini, and salads made to order. Grab a sandwich order sheet, wait your turn, and enjoy a delicious lunch at one of the outdoor tables. Popular and crowded at lunchtime.

Cafe 817 45
 817 Washington St. 271-7965

A lovely art filled place, close to the Convention Center, open only for breakfast and lunch. The menu choices are small, but everything is fresh and truly delicious. The Italian sandwiches are wonderful, as is the polenta. The peaceful atmosphere is a plus when you want to get away from the crowds, read your paper and enjoy a delicious coffee. Outdoor tables for warm days, too.

Tamarindo 46
 468 8th St. north of B'way 444-1944

Upscale modern South American and Mexican cuisine in an elegant space, with some outdoor tables also. Menu choices are mainly small plates at lunch, though at night they have larger entrees. Cooking is really delicious, although the portions can be small, and the prices a little high for what you get. The guacamole is superb and generous. Lots of drink choices from cocktails to tequilas to wine and beer. Very popular.

47

Chinatown

Oakland Chinatown 48
 7th to 12th Sts. btw. Franklin and Harrison

This is an area that is having a huge surge in growth, and is full of wonderful inexpensive restaurants and cafes: Chinese, Burmese, Vietnamese, Malaysian, Korean, etc. Go for a dim sum lunch some day, or just tour the neighborhood, exploring some of the side streets too, and try whatever place smells good and is crowded! You can also get something "to go", and munch as you walk. Some of the places are extremely simple, but do not let that deter you.

Peony 49
 388 9th St., 10th btw. Webster and Franklin 286-8866

Located on the second floor of the Pacific Renaissance Plaza, is this extremely large and popular Chinese restaurant, featuring excellent dim sum at lunch, and specializing in banquets at night. Everyone seems to order the special Peking Duck. There is always a crowd waiting, the place is noisy and bustling, and the prices are high end for the cuisine. But the food is very good, and it is a fine choice for a large group.

Gourmet Delight

50

701 Webster St. at 7th

832-7661

Always crowded and noisy, filled with Chinese families, which is always a good sign, this small restaurant makes no concessions to Westerners, but it does offer delicious fresh inexpensive dishes featuring seafood and really good Dim Sum at lunchtime. Since the Dim Sum ladies and their rolling carts do not speak much English, look carefully at what's offered, and point and choose. They'll tote up the bill, and you'll have a fine experience.

Kebabery

52

4201 Market St. at 42 St.

922-1601

This new small storefront in an out of the way location is brought to you by the owners of Camino. Right now it's open only for dinner. The small menu features a choice of delicious kebabs in a sandwich or as a plate, accompanied by inventive salads and an array of delicious herbs. There's soup and shoestring potatoes also, but that's it. Also beer and wine. Prices are inexpensive and you order at the counter. It's fast and casual, but high quality.

Clove and Hoof

54

4001 Broadway at 40th St.

547-1446

A combination Butchery/Restaurant this place offers truly delicious high quality large sandwiches, along with a few salads and sides, nothing too expensive, along with drinks, beer and wine. You order at the counter, sit down and enjoy. It's open for dinner also, offering some entrees along with the great sandos. Otherwise, order something from the butcher and cook it yourself at home. One of my favorites.

Mua

56

2442a Webster St. at 25th and B'way

238-1100

Almost unmarked and a little difficult to find, this restaurant, bar, and performance space is in a former garage, located in the burgeoning Uptown area, and it's totally cool and hip. The food is inventive, usually delicious and prices are low. The decor is industrial chic, with a large popular and gorgeous bar, and a noisy eclectic crowd. Open late most nights, too. Try this for a truly different experience.

The Hive

58

Broadway at 23rd St.

This hip and busy Uptown complex offers a mix of shops and eateries, popular and always crowded. Here you will find Drakes Dealership, a terrific beer garden which offers really good food along with a large choice of beers. It is filled with hipsters as well as families. Also here is Calavera, offering pricey, very tasty Oaxacan Mexican food as well as a large choice of mezcal and tequilas. Parking is very difficult, so be prepared.

Broadway**Noodle Theory Provisions**

53

5849 San Pablo Ave. north of Stanford

922-8619

This is a new branch of the Claremont Avenue place, with a larger menu, more hip, with some menu items also for sale. The decor is industrial chic, which means noisy when crowded. The Asian noodles are all delicious, as are the chicken wings and dumplings. It can get very crowded at peak times, but no matter, it is worth the wait. Large portions, moderate prices, this is one of my newest favorites.

Teni East Kitchen

55

4015 Broadway

597-1860

Modern decor, located next door to Clove and Hoof, offering Southeast Asian cuisine with a Burmese emphasis. The cooking is very good, the service quick and friendly and the atmosphere quiet. Prices are moderate. This place does not draw the huge crowds as some other Burmese venues in the East Bay, so think of it as an alternative where there are long waits. Do not miss the Roti's, the best around, in my opinion.

Luka's

57

2221 Broadway at W. Grand

451-4677

This taproom, restaurant, lounge, and hangout has a little bit of everything. The menu offers a wide range of Belgian bistro food, with shellfish platters, mussels, frites, and sandwiches as well as more substantial dishes. There's a huge list of beers as well as cocktails and wine. Prices are moderate, service casual. Mondays are popular \$1 oyster nights. Later on there's music, dancing, and a pool table. This place can get very noisy, but don't miss it!

Agave Uptown

59

2135 Franklin St.

288-3668

A new and lovely restaurant offering traditional Oaxacan food with a few Spanish influenced dishes. While prices are higher end, it is less expensive than other places offering similar food. There are plenty of alcoholic choices too, but the emphasis here is on the great food with dishes not seen at many other places. There is a private dining room for large parties also. Open for lunch during the week.

Hutch 60
 2022 Telegraph Ave. at 20th 419-0622

The chef is from Memphis, and his place features Southern cooking from that region -- grits, oysters, remoulades, and Brunswick stew. Prices are moderate and portions generous. There's a nice bar also, which features an array of whiskeys. It is open only for dinner, and unfortunately no longer on Sundays

Hopscotch 61
 1915 San Pablo Ave. btw. 18th and 20th 788-6217

This place in Oakland's Uptown is in a small storefront with a sign that is difficult to see, and has the decor of a 1950's roadside diner. But if you persist and find it you will be rewarded with some terrific food and drink. The cocktails are creative, the small menu offers beautifully cooked dishes with a Japanese fusion touch, and the wines are delicious, if high priced. Service is friendly and the atmosphere very hip and cool. Parking not too difficult.

Flora 62
 1900 Telegraph Ave. at 19th 286-0100

An old florist shop reconfigured into a sleek sophisticated Art Deco bar/restaurant, in a part of town that is now very lively. It's an oasis of California eclectic food, good wines, a gorgeous bar, and more. Prices are moderately high, with a few decently priced wines. The noise level is usually high though tables are nicely spaced. Service is professional. Adjoining the restaurant is a small bar called Fauna.

Duende 63
 468 19th St., btw. Telegraph and Broadway 893-0174

The former chef of Oliveto has opened up this place, trendy and lively, featuring his wonderful interpretation of Spanish food, both in small and larger plates. The decor is beautiful and elegant, the service professional. Many nights there is music also. This is one of my favorite places.

Saigon 64
 1526 San Pablo Ave. 465-4545

In Frank Ogawa Plaza (City Hall Plaza), 15th St. west of B'way is this simple place with excellent Vietnamese food. Popular at lunchtime, when you can sit outside in the sunny plaza, the menu features huge bowls of pho, or refreshing cold vermicelli noodle salads called bun, with a variety of toppings. Prices are low, service friendly. At night it is quieter, and there are more menu choices. The Vietnamese crepe, offered only at night, is great!

City Center Mall 65
 13th St. btw. Broadway and Clay

This small pleasant mall has a number of informal cafes offering quick breakfasts and decent lunches. The foods range from bagels and espresso to pasta and burritos. Nothing is expensive, and on sunny days you can take advantage of a large number of outdoor tables and benches. At lunchtime, it becomes crowded with workers from the nearby office buildings. There are also a few shops, and easy access to BART.

Mockingbird 66
 416 13th St. 290-0331

The new place across the street from Tribune Tower in the heart of downtown is a lovely modern space with an eclectic menu of really good food and pleasant service, as well as a large bar. The Liver Pate and the fried Brussel sprouts are must orders. It is a fine place for a quiet lunch, as well as an after work happy hour. It's conveniently close to a BART station. Prices are moderate.

Oakland Grill 67
 301 Franklin St. 835-1176

An extremely informal and funky place, open every day, good for generous breakfasts and lunches, but open for dinner too. Don't expect high-end gourmet cooking, but the food is good and the prices moderate. Popular for weekend brunch, when there's often a wait. Located in the middle of the wholesale produce district, it's worth a try for something totally different.

Everett and Jones 68
 126 Broadway 663-2350

Very popular, always crowded, generally noisy, this place features Barbecue in all its combinations. The service is friendly, the atmosphere extremely informal, and everyone seems to be having a great time. Open late on weekends, the portions are generous, the prices moderate.

Chop Bar 69
 247 4th St. at Alice 834-2467

This is a terrific small place with a casual friendly neighborhood feel, affordable prices, attentive service, and wonderful eclectic food. The cocktails are popular, as is the beer and low priced barrel wine. The menu is wide ranging with something for all tastes, and there is usually a group outside waiting for one of the tables. The crowd tends to be young and hip, but everyone is welcome.

Brotzeit Lokal

70

1000 Embarcadero

645-1905

This waterfront beer garden is a bit difficult to find, but search and you will be rewarded with a wonderful experience -- lots of beer choices, delicious home made sausages, and other German specialties, moderate prices and a laid back informal atmosphere. Both indoor and deck seating. Great to go in the early afternoon to watch the sunset, or for weekend brunch.

Jack London Square

72

bottom of Broadway from Clay to Alice

At the bottom of Broadway, (watch out for the trains as you cross Embarcadero), facing the inner harbor, you will find Jack London Square, stretching a few blocks in either direction. There is a lovely walkway along the water. At one end is the First and Last Chance Saloon, which is a must-see, and at the other end a ferry to San Francisco. There are a number of cafes and restaurants too, as well as a popular Sunday Farmers Market.

Forge

74

66 Franklin St. in Jack London Sq.

268-3200

Overlooking the water, this very informal spot, with walls of windows and high ceilings as well as a nice outdoor deck, features an array of terrific wood fired pizzas along with a few appetizers and salads. They offer cocktails and beer as well. Popular with families, everyone seems happy to be there. Service is friendly and fast, prices moderate. This is a great place to hang out on a sunny day.

Scott's

76

bottom of B'way on the water

444-3456

A large and busy upscale seafood restaurant on the waterfront, featuring decent cooking, professional friendly service, and well spaced tables. Popular with large groups and families. Get a table overlooking the water if you can. Prices are upscale, there's a huge menu, and the food is good if you stick to the simpler presentations. Reservations recommended on weekends.

Authors

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Jack London Square

Yoshi's

73

510 Embarcadero West

238-9200

Architecturally stunning, this restaurant facing Jack London Sq. features Japanese cuisine in a large dining area with a sushi bar, and an acoustically superb performance space. The food is improving, but the real draw is the music late into the night, at what is one of the top Jazz Clubs in the Bay Area. Prices are moderate to slightly expensive. This is not my favorite Japanese restaurant, but the music makes it special.

Lungomare

75

at the foot of Broadway

444 7171

This place at Jack London Square is a large and beautiful restaurant in a prime waterfront location. It has a lovely outdoor patio, good service and surprisingly delicious food. It is a great choice for a lazy sunny afternoon, watching the boats go by with a drink in your hand, and something good to eat. You can have a wonderful experience here if you choose wisely.

Kincaid's

77

One Franklin St. in Jack London Square

835-2032

This place is somewhat formal and dark, with wood interiors and a cozy fireplace. It overlooks the water, so ask for a table with a view, if possible. The large moderately expensive menu features steaks and chops as well as seafood. The cooking is not super creative, but pretty good if not great. This is a popular place for business lunches but is quieter at night and on weekends. Service efficient and professional.

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