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MICHELIN Guide San Francisco 2016: Bay Area & Wine Country (Michelin Guide/Michelin)



Synopsis

For carefully researched, objective recommendations to more than 450 scrumptious restaurants, representing more than 40 different cuisines, MICHELIN Guide San Francisco 2016: Bay Area & Wine Country, celebrating its tenth annual edition, is the go-to source for locals and travelers looking for great places to eat. The MICHELIN Guide pleases all palates and pocketbooks. Local, anonymous, professional inspectors use the renowned Michelin food star rating system to create the restaurant selection. All restaurants are recommended, so readers can feel confident in their choices.

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Customer Reviews

I've bought and used each edition of this Bay-Area Guide, and I checked them all while writing this. (I've voraciously read and saved Bay-Area restaurant criticism since the 1970s, and occasionally written it for print.) I've also used other US Michelins, and earlier (before US editions started) used them in Europe where Michelin is a social institution, much relied on. I know a few of this edition's reviewed restaurants intimately (from many more visits than Michelin's inspectors), which affords some checking on the Guide's reviews. First thing to be aware of: Most of the Michelin's value, or substance, to diners isn't visible in the sub-lists of restaurant names singled out for rare praise ("stars") or value favorites ("Bib Gourmand"). Those lists come out as press releases in advance of each US Guide, to encourage buzz and sales. Yet the Guide's real content is the full reviews of its 500 or so recommended restaurants -- still a select group, a percent or two of the region's restaurant population, but far more numerous than you'd guess from just the "lists" (which don't

even give their winners' justifying reviews). The annual Autumn public discussion of each new star and bib-gourmand list occurs mainly among people who don't actually buy the Guide, use it for restaurant information, or even know about most of its content. Strengths and weaknesses in this 2016 edition and the Bay-Area Michelins generally: The US Michelins' research methods (detailed some years ago in the New Yorker article "Interview with 'M'") yield concise independent assessments of high objective quality.

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