

GETTING STARTED

Sherpas probably won't be necessary, but you should still come prepared for adventure in San Francisco. Now would be a good time to start doing deep knee bends if you plan to take on its hills... or you just could start saving dollar bills for the cable car. You don't need all that much cash to have a good time here: there are free events, street fairs, concerts and parades throughout the year, and plenty of cheap eats and bargain goods to go around. But if you do arrive with a fat wallet, San Francisco's top-notch dining establishments, boutiques, art galleries and hotel-top bars will lighten your load as surely as Miss Piggot and her thieving barmaids did nightly during the Gold Rush – only these days, you're less likely to wake up on a ship bound for Argentina with a skipper barking at you to swab the decks.

In another example of Bay Area ingenuity, a recent local invention called the internet (perhaps you've heard of it?) will come in handy to book hot tickets in advance for film festivals and theater, or dinner in the city's trendiest restaurants. Summer visitors in particular should book as far in advance as possible, without overbooking themselves – this is one city where spontaneity is well rewarded.

WHEN TO GO

Little-known fact: the Summer of Love actually kicked off in January of 1967 here, and once you've spent a chilly summer's day in San Francisco you'll understand how the hippies might've gotten confused even without the help of hallucinogens. Entire June days are spent shivering in a fog bank, with temperatures hovering around 55°F. Determined picnickers huddle over their barbecue grills in Golden Gate Park, while just across the Bay, tanned Berkley locals are rocking their Birkenstocks without socks. It would hardly seem fair, except for the many street fairs and nonstop parades that make San Francisco in summer the place to be, and almost worth the outrageous high-season hotel rates.

Early fall is the best of all possible worlds in San Francisco, when summer really arrives (never mind the calendar), neighborhood street fairs are still in full swing, California's seasonal cuisine is at its flavor-bursting best and hotel rates unaccountably drop. By September and October Wine Country cools off enough at night to appreciate a peppery Zinfandel and a Calistoga mud bath. Most of the year the consistent San Francisco forecast makes easy money for local meteorologists: a high of about 55°F to 70°F during the day, with fog burning off in the morning and rolling back into town around sundown. Tote a sweater or coat at all times, or you'll be forced to commit the ultimate San Francisco fashion crime and sheepishly sport one of those \$12 fleece pullovers with the Golden Gate Bridge embroidered on it.

FESTIVALS

Professional paraders, raging exhibitionists and homecoming queens of all kinds won't want to miss the glut of annual street fairs that kick off with Pride month (known elsewhere as June) and end with the gleeful partying skeletons of Dia de los Muertos (p23) in November. But if you must come in the rainier, chillier months of December to March, don't despair, because there's still plenty to celebrate indoors and out: dance-along Nutcracker Suites, tiny-tot kung fu classes marching in adorably inept formation in the Lunar New Year parades, throngs rocking pink faux fur at public art gallery openings, and the improbable incessant blooming of Golden Gate Park. Not-to-be-missed events are following.

January

DINE ABOUT TOWN

www.sfdineabouttown.com

Over a hundred top San Francisco restaurants offer set-price lunch and dinner specials with local seasonal treats (crab, kiwi, tangerines – mmm).

February

INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL

☎ 415-820-3907; www.sfindie.com

This is San Francisco's Valentines for cinema buffs. Two weeks in mid-February a hundred-odd indie films and animated shorts are screened, making Oakland's Pixar look like it's on the shallow end of the talent pool.

NOISE POP

www.noisepop.com

Winter blues be gone: discover your new favorite indie band and catch rockumentary premieres and rockin' gallery openings; occurs the third week of February.

LUNAR NEW YEAR PARADE

☎ 415-391-9680; www.chineseparade.com

At the end of February/early March, lavish corporate floats vie for the attention of more than 70,000 visitors, but all eyes are on the 200ft dragon, badass martial arts marching band maneuvers and the frozen-smile runners-up for the Miss Chinatown title. Lucky red envelopes and fireworks rain from the sky like a February drizzle.

March

ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

☎ 415-661-2700; www.sfstpatricksdaysparade.com

A downtown parade and countless trolleys throng the streets with revelers whose entire vocabulary seems suddenly reduced to 'Erin Go Bragh!' and 'Woo-hoo!' Though SF has been green with envy lately over Ireland's tech boom, all is forgiven over a few (OK, many) drinks on St Patty's Day, when the Irish generously share their luck and libations with the entire city. Next time, maybe they could bring their venture capital, too. It takes place the Sunday before or after March 17.

ANARCHIST BOOK FAIR

sf.indymedia.org

The third weekend in mMarch is the time to rise up and read freely at Golden Gate Park's County Fair Building. Start reading your radical comic book in the middle if you like, and don't feel like you have to finish that manifesto: no one in this crowd is going to tell you how to do your thing.

April

PERPETUAL INDULGENCE IN THE PARK

☎ 415-820-9697; www.thesisters.org

Easter Sunday is all indulgence, all day in Dolores Park: there's an Easter-egg hunt in the morning for the kiddies, followed by a bitchin' Bonnet Contest and the Hunky Jesus Contest, for those who prefer their messiahs with some muscle tone.

Cross-dress to impress: ladies, this is your chance to be Jesus, or at least freak the bejesus out of the folks back home.

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

☎ 415-563-2313; www.nccbf.org

Mid-April sees Japantown get flower-powerful with taiko drums, homegrown hip-hop, shrines and sunshine. Foodies are drawn here from a 10-block radius by April breezes carrying the scent of food-stall yakitori, tempura, and *gyoza* (dumplings).

ALTERNATIVE PRESS EXPO

www.comic-con.org/ape

In the third weekend in April, meet the demented masterminds behind your favorite cult-hit comics, and score original Chris Ware sketches and Renee French books prepublication as well as precious signed, limited-edition handmade comic books by the next Daniel Clowes or R Crumb.

May

SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

☎ 415-929-5000; www.sffiff.org

Gawker.com acolytes and Herzog devotees linger shivering outside the Sundance Cinema Kabuki headquarters (p231) for the annual San Francisco International Film Festival to snap camera-phone shots of Parker Posey and Spike Lee, and argue heatedly about award contenders from Afghanistan and Norway. Get tickets early, and pace yourself: the longest-running film fest in the country is a marathon event, with 325 films, 200 directors, and sundry actors and producers vying for attention. It occurs late April to early May.

CINCO DE MAYO

☎ 415-256-3005; www.sfcincodemayo.com

On the first weekend of May Mexican independence and Chicano pride come to Civic Center and Dolores Park, complete with fantastic Aztec feather headdresses, gleaming lowriders, revolutionary speeches, chipotle chili beer, and much more. ¡Que viva!

KABOOM!

www.kfog.com/kaboom; Pier 30/32

On the second Saturday of May KFOG radio station gets the jump on July 4 with fireworks, kids activities and big-name bands

like salsa-funk mash-up masters Ozomatli supported by upstarts like the cheeky alt-rockers of Guster. Tickets cost \$15.

BAY TO BREAKERS

☎ 415-359-2800; www.ingbaytobreakers.com
The third Sunday of May sees 65,000 people jog costumed, naked and occasionally inebriated from Embarcadero to Ocean Beach – though a few runners dressed as salmon run upstream from the finish line to the beginning.

CARNAVAL

☎ 415-826-1401; www.carnavalsf.com
On the last weekend of May the burning question is Brazilian, or just faking it with a wax and a tan? Shake your tail feathers in the Mission and brave the inevitable fog – you might be surprised where it's possible to get goose bumps.

MISSION CREEK MUSIC FESTIVAL

www.mcmf.org
The city finally breaks a summer sweat thanks to 150-plus Bay Area bands as well as dance premieres at several ideal venues, including the Swedish American Hall (p222), 12 Galaxies (p221) and Rickshaw Stop (p223). Occurs the last week of May/early June.

June

NORTH BEACH STREET FAIR

☎ 415-989-6426; <http://sfnorthbeach.org>
In the vein of *La Dolce Vita*, the streets come mid-June are alive with swing bands, corny-but-classic accordions and sidewalk drawings by the local Leonardos of chalk; it's also a chance to get your pooch blessed by a priest and sample juicy Italian sausages hot off the grill. *Che bella* (insert hand gesture here).

HAIGHT STREET FAIR

☎ 415-661-8025; www.haightstreetfair.org
Free music on two stages, macramé and tie-dye galore, and plenty of dubious brownies surreptitiously for sale: all that's missing is the free love. Occurs mid-June.

GAY AND LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL

☎ 415-703-8650; www.frame-line.org
Here, queer, and ready for a premiere for three decades, and it doesn't look a day

over 29. This is the oldest GLBT film fest anywhere and, as regular crowds of 60,000 to 80,000 will tell you, consistently the best. Over two weeks in the second half of June, 200 films launch new talents from more than 25 countries, drawing celebs like Alan Cummings and John Waters, and raucous crowds that talk back to the screen.

PRIDE PARADE

☎ 415-864-3733; www.sfpride.org
Come out wherever you are: SF goes wild for GLBT pride on the last Sunday of June, with over a million people, seven stages, tons of glitter and ounces of bikinis, and more queens for the day than anyone can count.

July

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Not a bad use of American tax dollars, comparatively speaking. July 4 brings fireworks in fog over the Bay, celebrating the San Franciscan urge to party in the most adverse circumstances, and exercising the First Amendment right to complain about exceptionally unfortunate presidents.

AIDS WALK

www.aidswalk.net/sanfran
When San Francisco was hit by the AIDS epidemic more than 20 years ago, the city wiped away its tears and leapt into action with this pioneering fundraiser. Occurring on the third Sunday of the month, AIDS walkers are cheered on by onlookers and plied with free ice cream and treats every step of the way – and when you see walkers wearing 'in loving memory' T-shirts, suddenly you won't feel the least bit tired. All that fancy footwork has paid off, with \$60 million benefiting 43 AIDS organizations, and hundreds of thousands of exhilarated walkers.

PHOTO SAN FRANCISCO

☎ 323-937-4659; www.artfairsinc.com
Ever since Ansel Adams and Edward Weston revealed Northern California in all its sensual, silvery mystery, San Franciscans have gone wild for photography. Some of the world's foremost photography collections are here, and 100-plus dealers descend annually to sell sought-after work by blue-chip photographers and hot emerging artists. Occurs the third week of July.

August

SAN FRANCISCO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

☎ 415-621-0556; www.sjfff.org
The world's premier Jewish film festival will leave you *kvelling* (welling up with pride). Castro Theater (p230) is the main theater showing the films, but other venues around the Bay are also used. Occurs around the end of July/early August.

September

FRINGE FESTIVAL

www.sffringe.org
You'll find even more outrageous theatrical antics in SF than usual come early September, at discount prices. Book ahead, or chance it at the Exit Theater's (p234) box office.

ARAB FILM FEST

www.aff.org
Bringing Middle Eastern movies to the Roxie Cinema (p231) for around 11 years, the festival occurs the second week of September and has well-selected features breaking new ground from Morocco to Syria.

OPERA IN THE PARK

☎ 415-864-3330
In very un-divalike fashion, opera stars sing their hearts out gratis at Sharon Meadow. Close your eyes and imagine you're in SF after the 1906 earthquake, when opera stars performed here for free to keep local spirits up, and you'll get why this city adores its arias. Takes place the first Sunday of the opera season.

FOLSOM STREET FAIR

☎ 415-861-3247; www.folsomstreetfair.com
Work that leather look and enjoy public spankings for local charities on the last weekend of September. To answer the obvious question in advance: yes, people do actually get pierced there, but it's probably best not to stare unless you're prepared to strip down and compare.

SF SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

☎ 415-422-2221; www.sfshakes.org
The play's the thing in the Presidio, outdoors and free of charge on sunny September weekends.

October

CASTRO STREET FAIR

☎ 415-841-1824; www.castrostreetfair.org
Punk rockers thrash, drag royalty dish out quips and rainbow flags fly above the fray on the first weekend of October.

LITQUAKE

www.litquake.org
On the second week of October authors spill true stories and trade secrets over lunch, and share more than they mean to over drinks at the legendary Lit Crawl.

HARDLY STRICTLY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

www.strictlybluegrass.com
Three days and three stages of bluegrass legends, entirely free in Golden Gate Park on the third weekend of October.

SF JAZZ FESTIVAL

☎ 415-788-7353; www.sfjazz.org
From September 22 to November 30, old schoolers and hot new talents blow horns and minds in late October.

HALLOWEEN

www.halloweeninthecastro.com
Cross-dress-code prevails when claustrophobia-inducing crowds descend on the Castro. Watch Victorian windows for naked performances in neon skeleton makeup under blue light; top that, Blue Men Group. Takes place the last Saturday of October.

November

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS (DAY OF THE DEAD)

www.dayofthedeadsf.org; November 3
Zombie brides, Aztec dancers in full feather regalia and dancing skeletons party like there's no tomorrow, leading the parade of happy mourners down 24th St and paying their respects to community altars to the dead along the way.

UN-THANKSGIVING DAY

Un-make colonial history at the Alcatraz sunrise ceremony with Native leaders and supporters; on the third Thursday of November.

December

CELEBRATION OF CRAFTSWOMEN

☎ 415-431-1180; www.celebrationofcraftswomen.org

Leave handmade gifts to crafty professionals at this Women's Building fundraiser, on the last weekend of November/first of December.

DANCE ALONG NUTCRACKER

☎ 415-255-1355; www.sflgfb.org/show.html

Do you tutu? Dance to the Nutcracker Suite, performed by the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (p228) on the first weekend of December.

VODKA LATKE

www.noisepop.com/2006/special_events_vodka_latka.php

Mid-December sees Cocktails, latkes, a capella Leonard Cohen and high-stakes *dredl* (Hanukkah toy top) action for charity.

COSTS & MONEY

The cost of living in San Francisco is high, but in general you get what you pay for – inventive, fresh cuisine, stimulating cultural events, plenty of fine art and good strong drink. But many of the best things about San Francisco are gratis: natural beauty, street festivals, park strolls, gallery openings, idle conversation. Others are damn near free, so quit whining and fork over a few bucks for a steaming bowl of Vietnamese noodles, tickets to take the N Judah metro line all the way to the beach, happy hour in Mission dive bars. With some resourcefulness you can live well beyond your means here, with set-price lunches, same-day or standing room only tickets to the theater or opera, and killer sales racks at chi-chi boutiques – see Eating, Arts, and Shopping chapters for details.

In case you haven't already heard from some San Franciscan kvetching about the astronomical price of local real estate, accommodation will be your biggest cost in SF. Hostels and B&Bs are best to keep your rates under \$100 – be wary of hotels listed 'in the theater district' that are actually deep in the hard heart of the Tenderloin and function as live-in hotels for the city's transient population. Splashing out for a five-star hotel will get you Bay views and kind of an inconvenient perch atop Nob Hill, so opt for a smart

HOW MUCH?

Cup of coffee \$1.30 (small American drip coffee)

Gallon of gas \$3.15-3.79 (find the cheapest gas stations at www.sanfranciscoprices.com)

Burrito \$4-7 (even a cent more is cause for protest)

Movie ticket \$10 (bargain matinees and double features)

Pint of local microbrew draft beer \$3-5

Liter of bottled water \$1.69 (which few locals pay, because SF's tap water comes from Yosemite and is better than bottled)

Cable car ride \$5 (one-way adult, or \$10 all day)

Souvenir T-shirt \$10 (comes with mockery by locals gratis)

Spirits & speech Free (offer only good for San Francisco)

Love A bargain at any price (just ask the hippies)

boutique hotel if you want to be in the center of the action.

Unless you have places to be and internet deals to broker, car rental isn't usually worth the price and mental taxation. Basic rental starts at around \$40 per day without insurance, plus there are the ever-mounting gas prices to consider. Metered street parking often runs \$4 for a couple hours (when you can even find it, let alone free street parking), and \$30 fines will haunt you if you arrive even a few minutes past your limit. Overnight parking is often \$35, unless you can get it validated by your hotel. By comparison, an average taxi fare runs \$12 and Muni ticket costs \$1.50 – but a car is essential for excursions along the coast or up to the Wine Country.

Tippling & Bargaining

Tippling is an American practice that can initially be a little confusing, but it's an essential part of a service-based economy like San Francisco. Wait staff in restaurants and bars often get paid minimum wage and count on tips to make rent. Not tipping would be taken as a sign your server did something unspeakably wrong – and anything less than 15% of the bill would be an insult for decent service. In bars the unspoken protocol is that the minimum tip – even for one beer – is \$1 (the same dollar would be considered a sufficient tip for two beers, so order one for your friend). Since the San Francisco consumer tax

is 8.25%, you can easily figure out an adequate tip by doubling the tax that appears above the total amount on your bill.

To tip a cabbie add at least 10% (starting at \$1, even for fares under \$6) to the taxi fare. Hotel porters who carry bags a long way expect \$3 to \$5, or around \$1 to \$2 per bag. Valet parking is worth about a \$2 tip, to be given when your car is safely returned to you.

Bargaining isn't widely practiced in San Francisco outside flea markets and garage sales, but bartering is another story. Entire apartments are furnished, shelves filled and wardrobes stuffed by bartering on www.craigslist.org, selling clothes, CDs, and books for trade at boutiques selling recycled goods, and scoring stuff from the free box at garage sales.

Consumer Taxes

San Francisco's 8.25% sales tax is tacked on to virtually everything except grocery items – meals, accommodations, and car rentals are all taxed. There's also a 14% hotel room tax that probably wasn't reflected in the rates you were quoted, so be sure to ask.

INTERNET RESOURCES

To take SF by storm, do what the locals do – go online to these indispensable sites to find out what's happening where.

www.cookhereandnow.com Free local and seasonal food events and a weekly update on what's in season in SF.

www.craigslist.org Find a job, a new best friend, a German-speaking poker party, or that hottie you spied on the 22 Fillmore bus via Missed Connections.

www.dailycandy.com The latest hot spots for drinking, shopping, seeing and being seen.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Two months before you go Book your reservations at Chez Panisse (p280) or French Laundry (p327) and start walking – you'll want to work up an appetite and enough stamina to handle SoMa gallery crawls by day and Mission bar-hopping by night.

Three weeks before you go Book your cruise to Alcatraz (p341) and a Chinatown Alleyway Tour or Precita Eyes Mural Tour (p352). Sign up for classes to get crafty at the Craft Gym (p243), get into the swing of things at Circus Center Trapeze (p243) and get properly sloshed at Cav Wine Bar (p211).

One week before you go Relax: it's not too late to get tickets for the American Conservatory Theater (p233) or SF Symphony (p231) matinees, find out who's playing at SF's hot music venues at www.sfbg.com and score tickets online at TIX Bay Area (p234).

One day before you go See what San Franciscans are buzzing about at www.sfgate.com and www.sfbg.com, find out at www.indybay.org/sf if there's an upcoming protest worth shouting about, and look into www.somalit.com/newsletter.html for literary events where you can suavely schmooze with your favorite authors.

www.flavorpill.com The flavor of the week in SF movies, music and more, delivered to your email inbox.

www.indybay.org Left Coast news, protest listings, fundraisers and causes galore.

<http://laughingsquid.com/squidlist/events> Fair warning about bizarre, offbeat events happening around the Bay daily.

www.7x7.com The latest and greatest in restaurants, bars, boutiques and more.

www.sfbg.com Hot tips on local dining, events, movies, and sex habits.

www.sfgate.com The online version of the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

www.stretcher.org Art reviews, interviews and more.

www.sfist.com Blog with event picks, news and running commentary.

www.thebaybridged.com Music podcast featuring local talents and event listings.

www.thedelimagazine.com/sf Tasty tidbits about the Bay Area indie rock scene.

SUSTAINABLE SAN FRANCISCO

With its relentlessly blooming parks and wild parrots providing a running commentary overhead, this town is improbably bucolic – and you might feel inclined to keep it that way. Keeping San Francisco green isn't just about recycling that water bottle after you huff your way up a hill to take in the view; there are ways you can make your entire visit sustainable.

Here are some ideas to help you enjoy your visit to the fullest, while showing nature and San Francisco some love:

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Wake up and smell the fair trade coffee at Coffee to the People (p214) and Orchard Garden Hotel (p260).

Mosey down to a handy farmers' market for your pick of organic taste treats (p152).

Explore the city's surprisingly scenic back alleys on Chinatown Alleyways Walking Tours (p352) and Precita Eyes Mural Tours (p352) on foot or bicycle.

Browse the Haight's prime vintage clothing stores such as Wasteland (p168), and rock a recycled fashion statement.

Come clean with nontoxic, nature-friendly household products from Spring (p158).

Make art from industrial excess at SCRAP (p164) workshops, and lamps from old Tupperware at the Craft Gym (p243).

Souvenir-shop for a worthy cause at Under One Roof (p166), Community Thrift (p164), Human Rights Campaign (p165) and Global Exchange (p167).

Be a tree-friendly bookworm: score yours used at Adobe Books (p163) or Green Apple Books (p170).

Enjoy an environmentally happy hour at the Ferry Building (p67), with sustainable locally farmed caviar and oysters.

Dine in restaurants that serve only sustainably sourced fish and meat, such as Jardinière (p182) or Range (p191).

Booze the way nature intended at Yield (p210), an organic wine bar.

Soak your environmental cares away with soothing organic herbal bath salts from the beauty bar at Rainbow (p190).

Better still, being green in San Francisco doesn't mean handing over all of your greenbacks. [The Green Zebra](#)

(☎ 415-346-2361; www.thegreenzebra.org) is a savings book/green business directory that includes coupons for freebies and savings from local eco-friendly businesses.

Without especially trying you might find that you've had a carbon neutral good time in SF. This city is small enough that if you leave yourself a little extra time, you can skate, run, walk or sail anywhere you want to go in town (see Outdoor Activities p237).

Many local buses and Muni trams are electric; check p342 for key lines to get around town, or individual reviews for recommended public transport.

There's a low-carbon alternative for every type of traveler in San Francisco:

Daydreamers Taking the train to and from San Francisco is a mighty scenic way to cut back on your emissions.

Daredevils Cyclists heroically willing to brave the hills to save the ozone can rent a bike (p237), but be aware that many city thoroughfares still lack proper bike lanes, despite a monthly bike protest on the subject at Critical Mass.

Chronically late When you're pushed for time you can call worker coop Green Cab (p345) for a ride in a hybrid car.

Parking-phobics Longer-term visitors may want to sign up for Zip Car, a car share service with hybrid and fuel-efficient vehicles that come with their own parking spots.

For more on San Francisco's green scene, see Green San Francisco p52.

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THE AUTHORS

Alison Bing



Alison was adopted by San Francisco 15 years ago, and she's now done everything you're supposed to do there and quite a few things you're not, including falling in love on the 7 Haight bus and gorging on Mission burritos before

Berlioz symphonies. Alison writes for Lonely Planet's USA, Italy and Morocco guides, and holds degrees in art history and international diplomacy – perfectly respectable diplomatic credentials she regularly undermines with opinionated cultural commentary for radio, newspapers, books, food mags and art pubs, not to mention Lonely Planet's *San Francisco Encounter* guide.

ALISON'S TOP SAN FRANCISCO DAY

Roll out of bed and down Haight St for a coffee just when the shops are opening to check out what's new/old in vintage fashion, what classic CD someone's ex vindictively sold at Amoeba Records (p168) after a break-up, and what favorite author is reading this week at the Booksmith (p232). Then head to Golden Gate Park (p148) to find the most aggressive blooms in the Dahlia Garden and the fiercest mask in the Oceania wing of the MH de Young (pp148-9). Follow Andy Goldsworthy's simulated earthquake cracks in the sidewalk back out to the sunshine, and wander up to Clement St for dim sum and a browse through the titles at Green Apple Books (p170) and Park Life (p170). Hit Genki (p199) for tapioca bubble tea before hopping the downtown-bound bus 38 Geary. Trawl Gallery Paule Anglim (p76) for eye-popping shows by local and international artists before heading to Mission St for a peek at Catharine Clark Gallery (p118), Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (pp228-9) and the latest photography show at SFMOMA (pp115-8). Take BART to 24th St and La Taqueria (p192) for the perfect *pollo asada* burrito with chipotle salsa. Wash this down with a happy hour *mojito* at Medjool (p210). Window-shop up Valencia to the Roxie (p231) for a film festival feature. Discuss

at length over salted caramel ice cream from Bi-Rite (p192) before calling it a night – early risers get the Early Girl tomatoes at the farmers' market (p179).

Dominique Channell



Whisked around the globe every four years as a military brat, Dominique caught the travel bug early on and has happily discovered that there is no cure. Past years have found her bartending in Ireland, getting stuck on a glacier in Tierra del Fuego and crashing birthday parties in Malaysia. She researched and wrote travel guides before putting down roots in the Bay Area, where she lives with her husband and works as a freelance writer and editor. You can usually find her at one of the laptop cafés in San Francisco.

John A Vlahides

John A Vlahides co-wrote the Wine Country chapter. A longtime San Francisco resident, John is the executive editor and cofounder of the travel website 71Miles as well as author of many Lonely Planet guides, including *Coastal California*. He is also a French-trained chef, former luxury-hotel concierge and member of Les Clefs d'Or, the Paris-based union of the world's elite concierges.

LONELY PLANET AUTHORS

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