

Dining with Anna and Friends

This list of restaurants, bars, delis, and food stores are related in one way or another to The Tales of the City (books and/or films) as well as to *The Night Listener*. They are grouped by neighborhoods or areas in San Francisco. Some have already been included in existing walking tours. More will be included in future tours.

Many establishments – particularly bars and clubs – featured in Armistead Maupin’s books have since closed. The buildings were either vacant or have been converted into other types of businesses altogether (for example, one has been turned into a service for individuals who are homeless) at the time this list was created. For these reasons, those establishments have not been included in this list.

As with the rest of the content of the Tours of the Tales website, this list will be periodically updated. If you have updates, please forward them to me. I appreciate your help. 

NOTE: Please do not consider this list an exhaustive list of eating/drinking establishments in San Francisco. For example, although there are several restaurants listed in “North Beach” below, there are many more excellent places in North Beach in addition to those listed. Also, do not consider this list an endorsement of any place included in the list.

The Google map for this list of eating establishments: [Dining with Anna and Friends](#).

Aquatic Park/Fisherman’s Wharf/and the Embarcadero

The Buena Vista Bar, 2765 Hyde Street (southwest corner of Hyde and Beach; across the street from the Powell-Hyde cable car turntable):

Mary Ann Singleton was twenty-five years old when she saw San Francisco for the first time.

She came to the city alone for an eight-day vacation. On the fifth night, she drank three Irish coffees at the Buena Vista, realized that her Mood Ring was blue, and decided to phone her mother in Cleveland.



(Tales of the City/28 Barbary Lane, page 9)



Faithful to *Tales of the City*, the opening scene of the “Tales of the City” mini-series was filmed at the Buena Vista. The location of the pay phone *in the movie* was just to the left of the BV’s front doors as you exit the bar. That pay phone was a fake. (Until recently, the BV’s pay phone was located down the steps in the basement next to the men’s room.) Currently, there is a cash register next to the main entrance. The mirror next to the register was in the movie – located next to the fake pay phone. Here is the clip on YouTube: [Tales of the City](#).

The Buena Vista’s claim to fame is that Irish Coffee was introduced to the United States there as the result of a challenge between Jack Koepler, the then owner of the Buena Vista, and Stanton Delaplane, an international travel writer. After several attempts to recreate the famous Irish Coffee served at the Shannon Airport in Ireland (including a trip back to the Shannon Airport) and with help from the San Francisco’s mayor at the time, the current recipe for the Buena Vista’s Irish Coffee was perfected.

The BV’s world famous Irish Coffee draws visitors throughout the year. The summer tourist season often finds the BV crowded and loud. Locals tend to avoid the bar during the tourist season; however, it’s not unusual for a San Franciscan to come out on a cold rainy night in winter with some friends and sip one or two Irish Coffees.

When visiting the Buena Vista, sit at the right end of the main part of the bar. From there you have a great seat for watching the bartender brew and blend order after order of the Coffee.

The Buena Vista now has a gift shop adjacent on Hyde. The store sells a variety of gifts with the Buena Vista logo. For more about visiting the Buena Vista, visit its [website](#).

Pier Market Seafood Restaurant and Market, Pier 39 (Building F, Level 1)

One fall afternoon, Jake Greenleaf rode his bicycle to Pier 39 to watch the sea lions that made a home on floating docks near the end of the Pier (*Mary Ann in Autumn*). While watching the sea lions’ antics, a young man wearing a red hoodie struck up a conversation with Jake. After parting and going their separate ways, they bumped into each other again a few minutes later on Pier 39 at Lefty’s – The Left Hand Store.

Jake and the young man decided to get a bite to eat together. They purchased crab sandwiches here at the Pier Market Seafood Restaurant and Market. They sat on benches to eat their meal and watched a tall skinny



clown with a monkey puppet (this turned out to be Otto, Shawna’s sort-of boy friend).

The young man in the red hoodie introduced himself: He was Jonah, a Mormon missionary from Snowflake, Arizona.

[The Pier Market Seafood Restaurant and Market](#) doesn’t provide so-so quality seafood to unsuspecting visitors to Fisherman’s Wharf. The food really *is* quite good. If there is a line for inside seating, consider following Jake’s lead and pick up food to go. Go to the upper deck at the far end of the Pier and find a bench facing Alcatraz and Angel Island. If it’s a sunny, warm weekend, you will have an excellent seat to watch the sail boats that will most likely fill the Bay while eating your meal.

Forbes Island, Sea Lion Harbor (between Piers 39 and 41)

While Jake and Jonah watched the sea lions at Pier 39, Jonah noticed a small island with palm trees and a beach off the Pier. Jake informed Jonah that he wasn’t looking at an island but rather a motorized vessel that contained a restaurant – Forbes Island. Jonah suggested that they get together at a later date to eat dinner there.



Jake and Jonah returned a few days later to Pier 39 for their dinner at Forbes Island. During dinner Jake learned that Jonah was a Mormon missionary...and that his mission was to support passage of Proposition 8 (on the 2008 California Ballot), an amendment to the California Constitution restricting marriage to individuals of the opposite sex.

He also learned that Jonah was a *closeted, gay* Mormon. In disgust at Jonah’s hypocrisy, Jake left the restaurant.

The restaurant on Forbes Island closed its doors for good in June 2017. Its website is also shut down, but here’s an interesting article about the place: [Forbes Island Sails Off into the Sunset](#). Hopefully, the “island” will still there when you visit Pier 39.

Pier 23 Café, Pier 23 on the Embarcadero

Shawna (*Mary Ann in Autumn*) often ate at this funky roadhouse while waiting for her boyfriend-of-sorts, Otto, to finish his clown and puppet street performance further north on the Embarcadero at Pier 39. Shawna ate a plate of fried artichoke hearts.



[Pier 23 Café](#) is a fun place to eat. If weather permits, sit outside behind the restaurant overlooking the Bay.

Russian Hill

Zarzuela Spanish Tapas; 2000 Hyde (northeast corner of Hyde and Union)

Marcel et Henri was located here at the time of the *Tales* stories. The residents of Barbary Lane purchased some of their fancier meats there.



In *Tales of the City*, Michael purchased sausage here for Mona's breakfast one morning. Also in *Tales of the City*, on the evening she returned from her weekend tryst in Mendocino with Beauchamp, Mary Ann quick thawed with running water from the kitchen faucet pork chops she purchased here. She wondered if it was sacrilegious to use Shake 'n Bake on the meat.

In the "More Tales of the City" movie, DeDe tells Beauchamp that the sausages she's preparing for his breakfast are from *Marcel et Henry*.

Marcel et Henri produced French style sausages and *pâtés*. The business eventually relocated to South San Francisco. However, in April 2010, the owner and founder of *Marcel et Henri* passed away. A month later, a three alarm fire struck its facilities and production ceased. At the time of the updating of this tour, *Marcel et Henri* appeared to be out of business. Pates from *Marcel et Henri* had been available in many places throughout the United States.

An excellent Spanish *tapas* restaurant, *Zarzuela*, is now housed in *Marcel et Henri*'s old locale. Although this wasn't a restaurant when Anna and her family lived up here on Russian Hill, if you are looking for a pleasant evening, consider *Zarzuela*. It's a popular dinner destination and it does get busy rather early – even on week nights. At the time of the preparation of this list, *Zarzuela* didn't have its own website. TheMenuPage.com provides a sampling of *Zarzuela*'s menu (no prices provided, directions, etc., as does the similarly named MenuPages.com. Zagat also provides information about *Zarzuela* including a menu (this time with prices), reviews, etc.

Searchlight Market, 1964 Hyde (southeast corner of Hyde and Union)

The Searchlight Market is first mentioned early in *Tales of the City* and it reappears in several of the sequels. The folks at 28 Barbary Lane frequently shopped at the Searchlight Market because of its convenient proximity to Barbary Lane.

Early in *Tales of the City*, Mary Ann called Connie from here to tell her she secured an apartment at 28 Barbary Lane.



Mona and Mother Mucca went there to buy munchies for the gathering at Mrs. Madrigal’s when Mrs. Madrigal revealed her “story” to Mary Anne, Michael, and Burke (*More Tale of the City*). After landing a job as the hostess for the Bargain Matinee, Mary Ann became a minor television celebrity and found herself autographing her neighbors’ grocery bags at the Searchlight Market (*Further Tales of the City*).

The Searchlight is mentioned at least three times in *Significant Others*. After marrying Mary Ann and moving to the Summit, Brian purchased Diet Pepsi, a box of Milky Way candy bars, and the new Colgate Pump toothpaste at the Searchlight. It was from the Searchlight that Thack called Michael to see about getting together – just as Michael is packing to spend the weekend at the Russian River with Brian. Later, after Thack had left to return to Charleston, Michael felt a little down so he came here to buy milk and Oreos.

When Mary Ann returned to San Francisco in 2008 (*Mary Ann in Autumn*), she walked around her old neighborhood on Russian Hill. She noticed that the Searchlight Market was still open. After walking around the neighborhood and reminiscing, she eventually returned to the Market and purchased a turkey sandwich. She ate her sandwich back at the Alice Marble Tennis Courts at the crest of Russian Hill.

Armistead Maupin lived only a half-block up the hill (1138 ½ Union) from The Searchlight – so shopping here was as convenient for him as it was for the residents of Barbary Lane.

The Searchlight Market doesn’t have its own website, but there is a nice – and very old – review about it in a [SFWeekly Blogs](#).

Swensen’s Ice Cream, 1999 Hyde (southwest corner of Hyde and Union)

Norman Williams bought Mary Ann ice cream here in *Tales of the City*.

Later in *Babycakes* – after decking a mouthy coworker at Perry’s (and getting fired for it), Brain walked briskly back to Barbary Lane. He stopped outside of Swenson’s to gather himself together before finishing his walk back



home.

More than twenty-years later, when Mary Ann returned to San Francisco (*Mary Ann in Autumn*), she stopped at Swensen's and ordered a "Swiss Orange Chip" sugar cone.

From this corner shop atop Russian Hill, a world-wide chain of ice cream parlors by the same name was launched. Founded in 1948 by Earle Swensen, this ice cream parlor quickly developed a reputation in San Francisco for providing quality ice cream at a reasonable price. Swensen's [website](#).

North Beach

Washington Square (bordered by Columbus, Filbert, Stockton, and Union streets)

Although it is not a restaurant, bar, club, deli, or food store, Anna Madrigal occasionally took her meals here at the Park:



*He sat down on a bench in Washington Square.
Next to him was a woman who was roughly his age.
She was wearing wool slacks and a paisley smock.
She was reading the Bhagavad-Gita.*

She smiled.

'Is that the answer?' asked Edgar, nodding at the book.

'What's the question?' asked the woman.

Edgar grinned. 'Gertrude Stein.'

'I don't think she said it, do you? No one's that clever on a deathbed.'

There it was again.

He felt a surge of recklessness. 'What would you say?'

'About what?'

'The end. Your last words. If you could choose.'

*The woman studied his face for a moment. Then she said: 'How about...
"Oh, shit!"'*

His laughter was cathartic, an animal yelp that brought tears to his eyes. The woman watched him benignly, detached yet somehow gentle.

It was almost as if she knew.

'Would you like a sandwich?' she asked when he stopped laughing. 'It's made from focaccia bread.'

Edgar said yes, delighting in her charity. It was nice to have someone taking care of him for once. 'I'm Edgar Halcyon,' he said.

'That's nice,' she said. 'I'm Anna Madrigal.'

(Tales of the City)



In *More Tales of the City*, Mona was ticked because she thought Brian was seeing someone (little did *she* know) the night following her dinner with him. Calming down after talking to Anna, she and Anna went to Molinari's (see below in this list) to purchase food for a picnic in Washington Square. While watching Chinese grandmothers performing *Tai Chi*, Mona informed Anna that Betty Ramsey was coming to town and wanted to meet with Mona.

Thirty years later, in *Michael Tolliver Lives*, after a dinner rendezvous at Caffe Sport (below in this list), Mrs. Madrigal and Michael shared a doobie in Washington Square.

Trattoria Contadina, 1800 Mason (northeast corner of Union and Mason)

After being rebuffed by a female resident and then by security at the "Superman Building" (*More Tales of the City*), Brian beat a hasty retreat down Russian Hill and stopped at La Contadina for a glass of wine. There he bumped into Mrs. Madrigal. Mrs. Madrigal was concerned about the reason for Mona's absence and begins to reveal to him that Mona is her daughter.



Two weeks after meeting Steve Berry at Harvey Milk's memorial service, Armistead Maupin ran into Steve again here at La Contadina. They ended the day at Armistead's apartment on Telegraph Hill (see Tour #4, *Telegraph Hill and Back to Fisherman's Wharf*).

Although I have often waited for the Powell-Mason cable car in front of this restaurant, I have, unfortunately, never been inside it. [Trattoria Contadina's website](#).

Lillie Coit's, 1707 Powell Street (west side of Powell between Union and Columbus)

This is the former location of the Washington Square Bar and Grill. The building's façade no longer appears as it did before the Washington Square Bar and Grill did when it closed in December 2013.



Anna and Edgar had their first date here: “*Everybody's trying to be so godawful literary. For the price of a hamburger, you can look like you've just completed a slim volume of verse*”. Afterwards, they drove to the beach at Point Bonita. (*Tales of the City*)

Later in *Tales of the City*, after meeting Brian while he was working at Perry's, D'orothea agreed to meet him for drinks here after he finished his shift. During drinks, Brian learned about D'orothea, her career, and ultimately about her return to San Francisco to reconcile with her former lover – Mona.

In the “*Tales of the City*” mini-series, Mary Ann and Beauchamp are seen walking up to the entrance of the Washington Square Bar and Grill to have lunch. DeDe and Binky are having lunch in a restaurant across the street. Since DeDe's back is to the window, she doesn't see Mary Ann and Beauchamp, but Binky does. The reflection of a cable car can be seen in the window of their restaurant. Although the façade of the Washington Square Grill was used in the movie, as you can see, there *is* no restaurant across the street from it. Furthermore, the closest cable car line to this location is actually one block away on Mason. It is during this lunch that Beauchamp proposes that he and Mary Ann get away the coming weekend to Mendocino.



In *Tales of the City*, DeDe and her friend Binky are shopping at La Remise de Soleil when she sees Beauchamp and Mary Ann out at lunch. However, no restaurant is mentioned. It is at a later date that Mary Ann and Beauchamp have lunch when Beauchamp proposes the tryst. However, this is at MacArthur Park and not at the Washington Square Bar and Grill. The movie combines these two events into a single event.

In *More Tales of the City*, Mary Ann and Burk ate dinner here. After dinner they returned to Barbary Lane. Once back at home,

Mary Any proposed that they go to the San Francisco Flower Mart hoping that exposing Burk to so many roses would “short circuit” whatever it was that was freaking him about roses.

In *Further Tales of the City*, Jon unexpectedly appears at Barbary Lane and finds Mrs. Madrigal with cuts on her back (which she acquired from her tussle with Bambi Kanaka). After Jon has taken care of her wounds, Mrs. Madrigal hustles Jon out of the apartment building and down the hill to the Washington Square Bar and Grill for dinner. They dine at a window seat.

The Washington Square Bar and Grill was a San Francisco institution and it was long a hangout for the City’s politicians, writers/authors, and musicians. It closed in August 2010 – coincidentally on the same day one of its two original owners passed away. In late 2011, it was replaced by the Bottle Cap, which has, in turn, been replaced by The Square. The [Square’s Facebook](#) page.

Mama’s on Washington Square, 1701 Stockton (northwest corner of Filbert and Stockton)

One morning (*Tales of the City*), Mary Ann went downstairs to Mona’s and Michael’s apartment to see if they wanted to join her for brunch. They declined. Mary Ann headed five blocks downhill on Filbert to Mama’s. The line for Mama’s was long and she considered eating elsewhere when Norman, already in line with Lexy, spotted Mary Ann. She joined them. After brunch, Mary Ann, Norman, and Lexy crossed over to Washington Square where Lexy chased pigeons.



By the way, there generally *is* a substantial line at [Mama’s](#) on weekends.

In the “Tales of the City” mini-series, this chance meeting of Mary Ann and Norman is shot near the intersection of 24th Street and Sanchez in Noe Valley (below in this list).

Years later (*Babycakes*), Mary Ann and Simon Bardill ate dinner at Mama’s as the end of Simon’s stay in San Francisco approached. Brian had driven down the Peninsula to attend a weekend bash at Theresa Cross’ home. During dinner, Mary Ann suggested they take advantage of Brian’s absence spend the night together.

Acquolina, 1600 Stockton (northeast corner of Stockton and Union streets)

Acquolina was the location of *Malvina's* which figured twice in *Tales of the City*.



The morning after she was canned at Halcyon's, Mona had a leisurely cup of cappuccino at Malvina's.

Several weeks later, she returned to Malvina's with D'or. They sipped cappuccinos while they caught each other up on their lives since Mona's departure from New York three years earlier. D'or told Mona that she's finished with New York and she's

back in San Francisco to stay. Mona drew upon the song, *San Francisco*, for her reply, "Comin' home to go roamin' no more, huh?" In the "Tales of the City" mini-series, this scene is played out at D'or's home in Pacific Heights.

Malvina's is also mentioned in *More Tales of the City*. While eating lunch in Truckee, CA, with Mother Mucca, Mona learns that Mother Mucca is returning to Nevada from a COYOTE (that is, a hookers' union) meeting in San Francisco. Mona recalls frequently seeing Margo St James, the founder of COYOTE, breakfasting on coffee and croissants at Malvina's. Margo St James is a very real person and so is COYOTE, the organization she founded.

The photo shows Café Devine which was located here between the closure of Malvina's and Acquolina's. [Acquolina's website](#).

Original Joe's, 601 Union (@ Stockton)

This is the former location of Joe DiMaggio's Italian Chophouse. In *Michael Tolliver Lives*, Michael and his brother, Irwin, ate dinner here before Michael treated Irwin to an evening with Cressida at the Lusty Lady.

Until 2002, Fior d'Italia, an old Italian restaurant – and at that time, the *oldest* Italian restaurant in San Francisco – occupied this location. While dining with Irwin, Michael recalled that Fior d'Italia was located here when he was living at 28 Barbary Lane up on Russian Hill. Fior d'Italia relocated about 4 blocks away on Mason on the northern edge of North Beach.

Joe DiMaggio's closed in October 2010. Fairly recently, [Original Joe's](#), a long time popular restaurant that was previously located in the Tenderloin, reopened at this location.



Savoy-Tivoli, 1434 Grant (between Green and Union)

In *Tales of the City*, after reading about Mona in a trade publication and surmising that Mona was her daughter, Anna “engineered it” so that she and Mona would meet each other for the first time at the Savoy-Tivoli and launch their friendship.



Later, in *More Tales of the City*, after her confrontation with Betty Ramsey, Anna met up with Mona at the Savoy-Tivoli to try to sort out (with the help of wine) the relationship between Betty and the mysterious Norman Neal Williams.

Mary Ann and Burke rendezvoused here during *More Tours of the Tales* and ate dinner on the terrace, which reminded them of Mexico. Mary Anne informed Burke that she learned that the “transplant man” they had seen a few days earlier at the Flower Mart worked in the flower shop at St Sebastian’s Hospital. Burke then shared with her the four line verse that he has repeatedly “heard” in his dreams.

The Savoy-Tivoli doesn’t have its own website. It *does* have a page on [Facebook](#).

Sport Café/Caffé Sport, 574 Green between Stockton/Columbus and Grant.

After watching Beach Blanket Babylon (*Tales of the City*), Mona and Mrs. Madrigal walk the short block and a half down Green to the Caffé Sport. They sat in the back of the restaurant at a table next to the bas-relief of a Roman ruin. Mrs. Madrigal revealed to Mona that the evening was the third anniversary of Mona’s living at 28 Barbary Lane. She went on to inform Mona that Mona didn’t choose Barbary Lane, but rather Barbary Lane chose *her*. In the “Tales of the City” mini-series, this revelation takes place at Club Fugazi just prior to the finale, “San Francisco!”



Thirty years later, in *Michael Tolliver Lives*, Mrs. Madrigal and Michael met here for dinner. While eating, Michael caught sight of a younger man whose photo he recognized in the personals section of an online gay website. This was Ben McKenna, who later became Michael’s love interest. After exchanging phone numbers, Michael and Mrs. Madrigal continued their dinner. After dinner, they walked to Washington Square and shared a joint.

[Caffé Sport’s website](#).

Molinari's Deli, 373 Columbus Ave at Vallejo.

Anna Madrigal and Mona stopped here to purchase picnic foodstuffs (salami, cheese, and pickled mushrooms) for a picnic at Washington Square (above on this list) in *More Tales of the City*.



The opening of *Further Tales of the City* finds Anna Madrigal returning home with a bag of groceries, including three cheeses which she purchased at Molinari's.

After she returned from her month long trip to Lesbos, Greece (*Sure of You*), Anna Madrigal invited Brian, Thack, and Michael over for a visit. She shared with them photos of her trip. She served them a sherry she purchased here.

The meats, cheeses, and other deli items at Molinari's are excellent. You can pick up Molinari's salami at food stores all over the Bay Area. [Molinari's website](#).

Horizon Restaurant and Lounge, 498 Broadway (northeast corner of Broadway and Kearny)

This is where Vanessi's was located in the time period covered by the *Tales* books. In 1986, the owners moved it to 1177 California Avenue on Nob Hill. Eventually, Vanessi's closed its door 11 years later in 1997. In the "Tales of the City" mini-series, Beauchamp asks Mary Ann to make lunch reservations for him and D'orothea at Vanessi's.



Only four blocks away from the Days' apartment on Telegraph Hill, this is where DeDe met D'orothea in *More Tales of the City*.

[Horizon's website](#).

Financial District and Chinatown

Royal Exchange, 310 Sacramento (southeast corner of Sacramento and Front)

Shortly after starting at Halcyon, Mary Ann joined Mona for lunch at the Royal Exchange (*Tales of the City*). Mary Ann ate a turkey sandwich and bean salad. Mona



settled for two Pimm's Cups. Mary Ann told Mona that she was having dinner that evening at Mrs. Madrigal's.

In the "Tales of the City" mini-series, they have this discussion shortly after Mary Ann meets Mona at the trash cans; they are upstairs on Mona's apartment. At the time, Mona is dressing for work in front of her uncovered windows. *"You really can't hide from the Cosmos, right?"*

[The Royal Exchange's website.](#)

Nob Hill

Mark Hopkins, One Nob Hill (southeast corner of California and Mason)

When Mary Ann called her mother from the Buena Vista (at the beginning of this list), her mother began to reminisce about rendezvousing with Mary Ann's father during WWII on his return from the South Pacific. Mary Ann's father took her mother to the Top of the Mark. Her mother began to recount the spilling of her Tom Collin's on her husband's beautiful Navy Dress Whites when Mary Ann interrupted her mother to ask her to tell Mr. Lassiter that Mary Ann was quitting her job at Lassiter Fertilizers.



The Top of the Mark is on the 19th floor of the Mark Hopkins. It has a wraparound vista of San Francisco. It also has the well known *100 Martinis* menu. It is a popular place so if you're planning to visit for cocktails or light dining, it's first come, first served. Reservations are only taken for full meals.

Here is a bit of the Top of the Mark's history taken from the hotel's [website](#):

During World War II, servicemen would buy and leave a bottle in the care of the bartender so that the next soldier from their squadron could enjoy a free drink, the only requirement being that whoever had the last sip would buy the next bottle. The soldiers gathered before shipping out for one last toast to the Golden Gate Bridge, believing that the bridge was good luck and would bring them home. As they sailed off



under the Golden Gate, wives and sweethearts would draw together in the lounge's northwest corner, where they would tearfully gaze out the windows. This corner became known as the "Weepers' Corner."

The staff of the Top of the Mark tends to understand and is accepting of folks coming up only for the views. Consider going up during the "off hours" (i.e., between peak meal times) when the restaurant is not full and the staff busy.

Le Colonial, 20 Cosmos Place



The San Francisco Trader Vic's was originally located in this building and it was still located here at the time of Queen Elizabeth II's visit in 1983 (*Babycakes*).

Mary Ann and her camera crew waited outside the St Francis Hotel to catch the Queen's arrival at the hotel, only to learn later that the Queen's entourage entered the hotel through its parking garage. Later that evening, Mary Anne was invited to join DeDe, D'or, Frannie, and the twins at Trader Vic's. Frannie hoped to meet the Queen who was also dining at the restaurant that evening. They sat at the Captain's Cabin, the banquettes near the bar, drinking Mai Tais.

Frannie was obsessed with meeting the Queen. Frannie had once met the Queen in the 1960s when Halcyon Communications handled the BOA account. However, because of her poor relationship with Nancy Reagan, Frannie was not invited to the state dinner for the Queen.

The Queen, Prince Philip, and the Reagans dined that evening upstairs in the Trafalgar Room. There are two stories associated with the event: this was the first time Queen ever ate at a restaurant; and, when presented with a fortune cookie, the Queen had no idea what to do with it.

Trader Vic's closed this restaurant in the early 1990s. The San Francisco Trader Vic's reopened in 2004 at 555 Golden Gate (near Van Ness), the former location of the Stars restaurant. The Trader Vic's at that subsequent location on Gold Gate also closed.

[Le Colonial.](#)

Union Square

333 Geary

This was where Lefty O'Doul's was located in early 2017.

Three years before Burke Andrew met Mary Ann on the cruise along the Mexican coast (More Tales of the City), he worked at the San Francisco Associated Press (AP) office for four or five months. Trying to solve the mystery of Burke's amnesia, Mary Ann went to the AP office. At the AP, she met with Jack Lederer, who knew Burke.



Mary Ann learned that after leaving the AP, Burke freelanced. Jack Lederer told her that about five months prior to Mary's visit, he had bumped into Burke at Lefty O'Doul's. Burke bragged to Jack that he was onto a very big, bizarre story. When Jack asked Burke if he had any substantiation for his story, Burke responded it was more like transubstantiation.

Lefty O'Doul's was founded in 1958, by Francis "Lefty" O'Doul, a native San Franciscan who played for the New York Giants. He was considered one of the team's most colorful and popular players.

[Lefty O'Doul's.](#)

Neiman Marcus, 150 Stockton (southeast corner of Geary and Stockton)

In 1983, the cable car system was down for a two year renovation. By this time (Babycakes), Mary Ann had moved up from hosting the afternoon movie to actually reporting for a local TV station. She had just completed taping a spot about saving the cable cars in front of the Grand Hyatt (one and a half blocks north of here) when she bumped into a noticeably pregnant Connie Bradshaw. They walked down Stockton to Neiman Marcus to have coffee.



The Castro

The Twin Peaks Tavern, 401 Castro (at the southeast corner of Castro and 17th Street at Market)

Twin Peaks was the setting for three events in the Tales stories.



We're first introduced to the Twin Peaks in *Tales of the City*. Here Michael met and picked up Chuck, a rather pleasant looking guy wearing red, white, and blue Tigers (running shoes) along with a pair of Levi's and a rugby shirt. Michael quickly learned that Chuck had a fetish for Bass Weejuns. When Michael asked Chuck why he wore Tigers that night rather than one of his pairs of Weejuns, Chuck replied he always wore his Tigers with his rugby shirt. He then held up his foot for Michael to better see the running shoes. "They're just like Billy Sive's. In *The Front Runner*." In the book, the dialogue ends here.

In the "Tales of the City" miniseries, the dialogue continues:

Michael: "I've read it."

Chuck: "They should make a movie of it, man."

Michael: "Right. Right. With Paul Newman."

In *Further Tales of the City*, one day Michael stopped at the Twin Peaks after work (at God's Green Earth). The man standing next to him was listening to a Walkman. This was Bill Rivera, the San Francisco cop who became Mouse's sex buddy in *Further Tales of the City*.

Later, in *Babycakes*, after spending five hours at the AIDS hotline, Michael sat at a window seat at the Twin Peaks watching the young men pour out of the Castro MUNI Metro station across the street.

In the early 1970's, while the Castro was transitioning from an Irish community to the Gay neighborhood it now is, two lesbians purchased this old Irish pub and transformed it into a trend setting gay bar. The bar broke ground by rejecting the closed, secretive appearance of gay bars typical of the era by installing floor-to-ceiling windows opening up the inside of the bar to the world outside.

Here's the [Twin Peak's website](#).

Starbuck's, 4094 18th

Before this coffee café was a Starbucks, it was a Pasqua's – part of a San Francisco based chain of coffee houses. The Pasqua chain was eventually acquired by Starbuck's.



In *The Night Listener*, Jess Carmody occasionally met here for coffee and conversation with friends from ACT-UP and HIV support groups. One day, Gabriel Noone stopped here to pick up a turkey pesto sandwich. The place was filled with bears. He was there for ten minutes before he realized Jess – who had by this time moved out of the house – was also there. Jess was sitting with a group of leather men at a table near the windows. As Jess and Gabriel exited Pasqua's, Jess pointed out the makeshift shrine erected to Matthew Sheppard down the street at the corner of Castro and 18th.

The Castro Country Club, 4058 18th



This is an alcohol free reading room and juice bar. It was established as an alternative for the many gay bars found in the Castro. Occasionally after finishing a shift at the AIDS switchboard, Michael came to the CCC (*Babycakes*).

On the morning he ate his breakfast at Welcome Home and after he saw a man emerge from the Hibernia Bank who reminded him to Jon, Michael came here and started to read the latest issue of *The Advocate*. The magazine contained an ad for jewelry that said "I'M SAFE" announcing that the wearer was free of AIDS, herpes, etc. The ad angered Michael.

The [Castro Country Club](#) website.

The Sausage Factory, 517 Castro

In the months following Jon's death, Michael volunteered at the AIDS hotline across the street (located at 512 Castro) from the Sausage Factory (*Babycakes*). After a five hour shift at the hotline followed by watching commuters exiting the MUNI Metro Station across the street from the Twin Peaks, Michael decided on pizza for dinner here at the Sausage Factory.

The Sausage Factory was so warm and cozy that he [Michael] scuttled his better judgment and ordered half a liter of house red. What began as a mild flirtation with memory had degenerated into maudlin self-pity by the time the alcohol took hold... ..When the waiter arrived with his pizza, his face was already lacquered with tears.

(*Babycakes/Back to Barbary Lane*, pp. 20-21)

The food is excellent here at the [Sausage Factory](#).



The Edge, 4149 18th (southeast corner of 18th and Collingwood)



In the mid-80's this was the location of Francine's. Shortly before Anna Madrigal left to join Mona on vacation on Lesbos, she invited Michael and Thack over for dinner (*Sure of You*). While they were doing the dishes after dinner, Polly Berendt, who had moved into Michael's old apartment at 28 Barbary Lane, dropped by to give Anna a check for rent. Polly couldn't stay and chat because she was headed out to meet some friends

here at Francine's.

Many years later (*Mary Ann in Autumn*), Michael and Thack were separated and Michael had married Ben. One night following dinner at the Thai Chef (see below), they came here for a few beers. The [Edge's Facebook](#) page.

Thai Chef, 4133 18th

One night, Michael and Ben ate dinner here. (They "could never remember the name of it, so they always called it 'the Thai place next to the Edge.'" – *Mary Ann in Autumn*, p. 265). Earlier that day, Ben went out on a "play date". When he returned home, he brought back a small paper bag containing some tangerines that they guy he was with had given him.

Although Michael and Ben had a somewhat open marriage, Michael was occasionally insecure about it. The bag of tangerines was festering in Michael's mind. He brought it up at dinner. During their talk, Ben patiently supported Michael as he struggled with his insecurity. After dinner, Ben suggested they go next door to the Edge for beer.



Meanwhile, back at their home on Noe Hill, a man entered their guest cottage and confronted Mary Ann with a gun.

Café Mystique, 464 Castro

This is the former location of the Welcome Home restaurant. A cross section of people came to Welcome Home for good, inexpensive, no frills meals.

The day after Mary Ann proposed that Michael and Simon exchange apartments for a month (*Babycakes*), Michael awoke





late, wrote a letter to his mother, and then drove to the Castro for breakfast at Welcome Home. After leaving Welcome Home, he saw a man resembling Jon emerge from the Hibernia Bank (now the Bank of America) at the southeast corner of Castro and 18th.

[The website for Café Mystique.](#)

440 Castro, 440 Castro

The cast and crew of “Tales of the City” were positioned in front of 440 Castro and the Citibank next door when they wrapped the on location filming for the miniseries. The final scene shot in San Francisco was of Mary Ann and Norman walking away from the Castro Theater after watching a movie.

440 Castro was called Daddy’s at the time of the on location shooting for “Tales of the City”. During the filming of the 2008 movie *Milk*, 440 Castro was given a new façade making it resemble the original Toad Hall which was located just steps away. [440 Castro’s website.](#)



Noe Hill Market, 4001 19th (at Noe)



Following the argument that erupted when Mary Ann informed Brian she was moving to New York – *without* him (*Sure of You*), Brian took off and went to Michael’s and Thack’s place on Noe Hill. He asked if he could crash with them until Mary Ann left for New York. While the three of them worked out the arrangement, the doorbell rang. Thack looked and saw Trick or Treaters at the door. Realizing it was Halloween and there was no candy in the house, Michael took a jaunt down the hill to the Noe Hill Market to pick up candy.

Note: The awning of Noe Hill Market is no longer yellow.

Noe Valley

Casa Mexicana, 3917 24th, and *The Mall*, 3915 24th

This restaurant and alley appeared in the *Tales of the City* mini-series.

In the film, Mary Ann (Laura Linney) crossed from the northwest corner to the southwest corner 24th and Sanchez. She then walked west on 24th to Rudy's restaurant (*Casa Mexicana* at 3917 24th). There she was told by someone at the door that the line started around the corner. She backtracked a few steps, and saw a line snaking down the side of an alley/sidewalk (*The Mall* between *Casa Mexicana* and Joshua Simon). In this alley, she ran into Norman and Lexy. (In the book *Tales of the City*, this scene is played out at Momma's on Washington Square – above in this list). Here is the scene from *Tales of the City* on [You Tube](#) – scene starts about 03:00.



No website for *Casa Mexicana*.

Dubose Triangle

Safeway, 2020 Market

Mary Ann *tried* to pick up Robert, Michael's old boyfriend, at the Marina Safeway Market.

Michael *successfully* picked up Robert at *this* Safeway.



Café du Nord and *the Swedish American Hall*, 2170 Market



One night Shawna (*Mary Ann in Autumn*) came here to listen to a performance by Iron and Wine (born: Samuel Beam). And here she also met Otto, who became her boyfriend...of sorts. She learned that Otto was unaware of her blog (“Grrrl on the Loose”). And she also learned that Otto was a clown.

On Thursday, May 12, 2011, as part of the ramping up toward the world premier of the musical *Tales of the City* at the American Conservatory Theater, a special event was held here: “Thoroughly Modern Maupin: The Legacy of Armistead.” This was an evening filled with readings and music. It featured the next

generation of GLTB writers who continue to further the ideals that Maupin helped pioneer.

Check out the website for performances, menu, etc.: [Café du Nord and the Swedish American Hall](#)

SOMA (South of Market)

The End Up, 401 6th (southeast corner of 6th and Harrison)

In *Tales of the City*, Michael launched his disparate quick cash scheme by participating in the Mr. End Up dance contest. He won the contest only to temporarily lose Jon.

The End Up opened on November 15, 1973, and its style and clientele has repeatedly “morphed” since. When it opened in the 1970s, it was the hangout of the clean college type, much to the derision of the leather crowd that patronized the more numerous leather bars in the area. It was also nearly exclusively gay at that time. Upstairs was the Harrison House where rooms could be rented for about \$25 per week.

Plan your night out: [The End Up](#).



The Bloodhound, 1145 - 1147 Folsom (southwest corner of Folsom and Hallam)

This is the former location of The Barracks. The Barracks was mentioned in both *Tales of the City* and in the “Tales of the City” mini-series with essentially the same content.



In *Tales*: After Mona lost her job at Halcyon, Michael tried to lift her spirits by talking her into going to a movie with him. She declined. Michael then decided to go out anyway – Mona labeled the activity “trashing”. Michael considered taking MDA before he left, but then quickly changed his mind. He had heard rumors that someone on MDA dropped dead at The Barracks the week before. Michael then struck out for the Castro going to the Twin Peaks where he soon met Chuck. [The Bloodhound](#). A little C/W music on the website.

The Cat Club, 1188-1190 Folsom (near the corner of Folsom and 8th)

This is the former location of The Baybrick Inn.

After a dinner at Le Trou, a French restaurant on the other side of Mission, DeDe and D'or got loaded on wine spritzers at the Baybrick Inn (*Significant Others*). D'or arranged for a female stripper in a cop uniform to do a lap dance on DeDe. The show was a fund raiser for AIDS. DeDe gave the cop a \$20 tip; the cop stuck her tongue in DeDe's ear.



The Baybrick Inn (also known as Clementina's) was a haven for San Francisco's lesbian community in the early to mid 1980s. It was a dance club, restaurant, and hotel complex. It also provided a cabaret style venue for emerging as well as seasoned entertainers (both musicians and comedians). The Baybrick Inn itself replaced a leather bar called Headquarters.

The [Cat Club](#) is very underground/goth/gay. It's a very popular joint.

The Lone Star Saloon, 1354 Harrison (north side of Harrison – across from Dore Alley)

Four or five years before Michael updated us about his life (*Michael Tolliver Lives*), he met Jake Greenleaf sitting alone, nursing a beer at the bar here at the Lone Star Saloon. The year before meeting Michael, Jake moved to San Francisco from Tulsa, OK. Michael soon learned that Jake was a transsexual. By the end of the evening, they had become friends. A few weeks later, Jake started working for Michael at the nursery. [The Lone Star Saloon](#).



The Holy Cow, 1535 Folsom (at Norfolk between 11th and 12th streets)



This is the original location of The Stud, the bar where Michael and Brian went cruising one night after getting stoned together. (*Tales of the City*)

Brian's evening proved interesting. He met and then abandoned the "Coppola chick" who wore the "bitch" t-shirt. He also learned about cockrings from Michael.

When the bar first opened in the mid-60s, it was a biker hangout. By 1970, it became a dance bar for hippies. It later immersed as a leather bar. In 1987, it moved to its current location at 339 9th Street at Harrison.

Mission

Quick note about the Mission: *More locations will be added to this section in the coming months.*

Rainbow Grocery Cooperative, 1745 Folsom (just south 13th Street and the US 101/Central Freeway viaduct)

This is where Shawna purchased her bulk food (*Mary Ann in Autumn*).



Civic Center

Burger King, 1200 Market (at Hyde and Grove)



Earlier the same day that Shawna and her (sort of) boyfriend Otto found a wounded Leia in the Tenderloin, Otto had worked the crowd at a matinee performance at the Opera Hall (below in this tour). Afterward, he came here for a bite to eat. Otto had seen Leia that day sleeping in a box in the neighborhood.

Heads up: The homeless people both around and inside the restaurant make some folks uneasy.

Polk Street

Bell Tower Restaurant, 1900 Polk (northeast corner of Polk and Jackson)

This is the former location of The Noble Frankfurter. In *Tales of the City*, Mona and Mouse shared two cheese dogs and an order of fries while discussing the disparate state of their financial situation. Michael sprung on Mona his plan to get instant cash: compete in the jockey shorts dance contest at the End Up. In the “Tales of the City” mini-series, this scene was shot at the intersection of 24th Street and Sanchez in the Noe Valley.



The Bell Tower doesn't have its own website, but it does have page on [Facebook](#). Here are websites that provide a copy of the menu, reviews, etc: [Menupages.com](#), [Menuism.com](#), and the [RestaurantPlace.com](#).

Leopold's, 2400 Polk (northeast corner of Polk and Union)



This is the former location of the Pavilion.

After Edgar Halcyon visited Ruby Miller, a faith healer, for treatment, he returned home to find clear indications of Fannie's drinking that day. Frannie began to grill him about his activities that evening. Edgar redirected Frannie's attention away from his doings that day by asking about her day. She reported joining her friends Helen and Gladys for lunch at the Pavilion. Afterwards, she purchased a duck-shaped ceramic soup tureen. (*Tales of the City*) [Leopold's website](#).

Union Street/Cow Hollow

Perry's, 1944 Union (between Laguna and Buchanan)

If you are visiting San Francisco and can eat at only one place in this part of the City, consider making Perry's your choice.

Brian worked here as a waiter from the start of *Tales of the City* through the beginning of *Significant Others*. In *Tales of the City*, Jon agreed to meet Beauchamp here for lunch; they were seated in the courtyard at the back. Brian waited on them. During lunch, Jon informed Beauchamp that their relationship was over. It was also in the back room where Brian (while he was working) met and tried to pick-up D'orothea (*Tales of the City*).



Brian grew to hate working at Perry's. He was eventually fired after slugging a co-worker in the jaw for making a smart-assed remark about Mary Ann and Simon who had stopped into Perry's for a bite to eat (*Significant Others*).

When I visit San Francisco with friends who are fellow Barbaryphiles, we often eat breakfast here.

Perry's now has opened three other stores in the San Francisco area, but this is the genuine Perry's. [Perry's website](#).

Café Des Amis, 2000 Union (northwest corner of Union and Buchanan)

This is the former location of Thomas Lord's.

After returning home from prowling the aisles of the Marina Safeway (further below in this list), Connie announced to Mary Ann that she was “ready for Union Street.” And out she went looking again for love on the streets of San Francisco.



The next morning, Mary Ann awoke to the sound of garbage trucks and Connie's return to the apartment after a long night. Connie started the night at Perry's. Then she went to Slater Hawkins. Connie ended the night at Thomas Lord's where, in desperation, she ended going home with a guy named Danny who lived across the Golden Gate Bridge in Mill Valley (Marin County). He had just finished *est* training (oh, god!). All they did at his apartment was *talk!* Well, *he* talked. (*Tales of the City*)

The Bermuda Triangle (the intersection of Fillmore and Greenwich) was the location of pickup bars for the single straight scene in San Francisco. The bars of the Bermuda Triangle mentioned in the *Tales* stories were the *Balboa Café*, *Slater Hawkins*, and *The Dartmouth Social Club*.

Balboa Café, 3199 Greenwich (southwest corner of Greenwich and Fillmore – in the Bermuda Triangle)



During the apartment exchange between Michael and Simon (*Babycakes*), Brian invited Simon to go running with him on day along the Embarcadero. Brian mentioned that he happen to see a woman leave Simon's/Michael's apartment earlier that morning. It was Jennifer Rabinowitz – one of Brian's previous Good Time Charlenes. Brian asked Simon where he met up with Jennifer. It was here at the Balboa Café. Brian informed

Simon that Jennifer was the head shark in the Bermuda Triangle.

The [Balboa Café](#) was established in 1913, making it one of the oldest saloons in San Francisco. Today the Café continues its tradition as the “in” place to eat, drink, make merry, and to be consumed by sharks.

Sabrosa, 3200 Fillmore (northeast corner of the intersection – in the Bermuda Triangle)

This was the location of Slater Hawkins...followed a few years later by the Dartmouth Social Club.

Slater Hawkins was mentioned twice in *Tales of the City*.

The first time was when Mary Ann was still living temporarily with Connie – see *Café des Amis* above.



The second time was several weeks later after Michael moved in with Mona at 28 Barbary Lane. It was the day of the dance contest at the End Up. Michael decided to get more sun so he spread his towel in a corner of Mrs. Madrigal's courtyard which the tenants had dubbed the "Barbary Beach". After a while, he was joined by Brian who also wanted to catch some rays. Michael remarked that San Francisco must be a great town for a single straight guy. Brian dismissed the erroneous assumption saying, "*I spent four f**king hours at Slater Hawkins last night, trying to plug a chick I wouldn't have sneezed at in college.*" (*Tales of the City/28 Barbary Lane*, p. 155)

Yep, Brian *was* a pig at one time.

Slater Hawkins had *another* connection with the Tales stories that is less well known: "The Serial", Armistead Maupin's first attempt at a serialized story about life in San Francisco, ended abruptly after only 5 installments. "The Serial" appeared in the cash strapped San Francisco edition of the *Pacific Sun* which folded. The hapless fans of were left dangling at Slater Hawkins (see the Marina Safeway below in this list for the rest of this story...).

By the time of *Further Tales of the City*, Slater Hawkins had become the Dartmouth Social Club. A glossy, wine-red, 1950s Indian Warrior motorcycle was suspended overhead in the bar. Memorial Day weekend, while Mary Ann was poolside with Frannie Halcyon in Hillsborough and Michael was poolside with Ned in Hollywood, Brian returned here – one of his old haunts – for a bite to eat. Jennifer Rabinowitz appeared out of nowhere and asked him, "*God, what are you doing back in The Bermuda Triangle?*" Jennifer tried to seduce Brian into accompanying her back to her nearby apartment; Brian suggested he buy her a drink instead. Eventually realizing she was not going to bag Brian, she chucked him under the chin and said, "*Some guys don't recognize a friendly f**k when it's staring 'em right in the face.*" (*Tales of the City*).

The photo was taken when City Tavern occupied this location between the Dartmouth Social Club and Sabrosa. [Sabrosa's website](#).

Mel's Drive-In, 3355 Lombard (southeast corner of Lombard and Steiner)

Just before moving to New York to star in her own nationally syndicated TV talk show, Mary Ann took Shawna here for a chocolate shake (*Sure of You*). Mel's is a very popular place to have breakfast. Come early on Saturdays and Sundays or expect a wait to be seated. The food is good old fashioned diner style.



International House of Pancakes (IHOP), 2299 Lombard (southeast corner of Lombard and Pierce)



One morning after she temporarily moved in with Connie Bradshaw, Mary Ann crept out of the house to look for an apartment of her own. After wandering through the Marina district looking for "For Rent" signs, she stopped here at the IHOP and ate a huge breakfast. (*Tales of the City*)

The Marina

Marina Safeway, 15 Marina Blvd (southeast corner of Marina and Buchanan)

Welcome to the "Social Safeway".

Although the opening scene in both the serial and mini-series, "Tales of the City" found Mary Ann Singleton calling her mother back in Cleveland from a pay phone at the Buena Vista, the Marina Safeway was the catalyst of the Tales.



In 1974, thirty year old Armistead Maupin was the associate editor the *Pacific Sun's* San Francisco edition. He planned to write a non-fiction article about the cruising scene at the Marina Safeway, however; no one was willing to admit coming here for the purpose of getting laid. Maupin solved this problem by writing about a fictional character named Mary Ann Singleton and her search for love here at the Safeway. The story was a hit and Maupin's editor suggested that Maupin continue writing about Mary Ann and her adventures in San Francisco. And so "The Serial" in the *Pacific Sun* was born.

The San Francisco edition of the Pacific Sun and "The Serial" were short lived. The San Francisco edition was floundering financially and it closed down. Although the

popularity of “The Serial” was growing, after only 5 installments, it abruptly ended with the closing of the paper:

“She made her way to the ladies’ room and barricaded herself in the left-hand stall. And there, written on the wall in ink, was the weirdest thing she had seen in all her 28 years... [continued next week].”

Maupin’s fan’s never learned what Mary Ann read on the bathroom wall at Slater Hawkins.

Almost two years later, in May 1976, Maupin brought Mary Ann back – along with a few other characters from “The Serial” such as Connie and Michael – through the *San Francisco Chronicle* as “Tales of the City”.

So, the Marina Safeway can be considered the birthplace of the Tales.

The Wednesday after Mary Ann decided to defect from Cleveland and stay in San Francisco, she went apartment hunting. She found a “darling place on Russian Hill”. She called her friend Connie from the Searchlight Market on Russian Hill to deliver the good news. She then asked Connie what the plans were for that evening. Connie’s response: “The hottest spot in town. Social Safeway.” (*Tales of the City*)

Mary Ann found it hard to believe that a grocery store was such a hot cruising spot on Wednesday nights.



While shopping in the produce section, Mary Ann fended off a would-be... would-be... would be *what?* Lover? Trick? I’ll have to go with Maupin’s label: assailant. She then became attracted to a handsome young man named Robert. Who turned out to Michael’s boyfriend.

Can’t win them all.

Twelve years later, (*Sure of You*), after leaving the Wave Organ (see above in this tour) Mary Ann and Michael walked here to the Safeway to purchase pasta salad for lunch. Michael asked Mary Ann if she picked the place on purpose. He then reminded her that they first met here when Mary Ann tried to pick up his ex-boyfriend.

At the time *Sure of You* was written, Armistead Maupin was not entertaining writing any further sequels to the Tales series. It was only fitting that since Mary Ann and Michael met here at the Safeway shortly after Mary Ann moved to San Francisco and that they should return here again shortly before Mary Ann moved from San Francisco.

Golden Gate Park/Lands End

Cliff House, 1090 Point Lobos

When Michael's folks visited him during Halloween in 1976, he spirited them away from the celebrations in the Castro and Polk Street – as far away as possible from roller skating nuns. They ate dinner that evening at the Cliff House. Michael tried to blow off the earlier encounter with the roller skating nuns as friends of Mona. And he admitted that they were men.



“Fruits?”

“Herb!” Michael’s mother dropped her fork and glared at her husband.

“Well, what the hell do you want me to call them?”

“That’s not a very nice word, Herb.”

“Why not? I’m a citrus grower, Alice. We raise fruits!” He laughed raucously.

“You just shouldn’t talk that way about people who can’t help themselves.”

“Can’t help themselves! Who the hell can’t help skatin’ down the middle of the road middle of the street dressed up like a goddamn nun?”

(Tales of the City/28 Barbary Lane, p. 189)

Years later (*Mary Anne in Autumn*), Shawna has a dream in which she and the street women in the red warm-up suite dined here while admiring the sunset. However, the Cliff House wasn't the sleek, new redesigned one that is currently here, but the older, funkier, un-renovated one.

The Introduction on the [Cliff House’s website](#), shows photos of the Cliff House over the span of its history. It also provides the menu.

Beach Chalet, 1000 Great Highway



Mary Ann and Norman celebrated Norman’s birthday with a dinner here at the Beach Chalet. (*Tales of the City*)

Earlier that day, Mary Ann purchased Norman a *real* necktie. A bit later, Beauchamp slithered up to Mary Ann’s desk. Toying with Mary Ann, he suggested that they go out for a drink that night. Mary Ann informed him she already had a date. After some pressing by Beauchamp, Mary Ann revealed that the date would be at the Beach Chalet. She asked if he knew the place. “Sure. You’ll love it. The VFW meets there.” he replied.

That evening at dinner, and with the help of three white wines, Mary Ann felt much better about the place’s ambiance. Norman remarked that he thought she would get a kick out the “muriels”. This puzzled Mary Ann until Norman elaborated by pointing out the paintings on the walls. Aha! *Murals!* (*Tales of the City*)



The filming of the dinner scene in the *Tales of the City* miniseries was done here at the Beach Chalet. The restaurant was set up on the first floor which is now a Visitors’ Center. The table where Mary Ann (Laura Linney) and Norman (Stanley deSantis) sat was placed approximately slightly southwest of the center of the room – closer to the row of glass doors facing the ocean. The bar (with the half asleep bartender) was located near the opposite wall to the left of the arched door leading to the Park Chalet Restaurant at the back of the building.



Here is the scene on [YouTube](#), starts about 04:12.

The “muriels” (actually, frescoes) were created by Lucien Labaudt in the 1930s with WPA funds from the Roosevelt administration. They convey real people and real activities of San Francisco in the 1930s. In 1947, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) leased the building as a social hall, with a bar and pool tables downstairs and meeting rooms upstairs. The VFW moved out in 1979. The building remained empty for a couple of years. In 1981, an extensive restoration of the structure and artwork began. The building reopened in 1996, and today the ground floor houses the Golden



Gate Park Visitor Center and the Park Chalet restaurant. Upstairs is the Beach Chalet restaurant. The food at both restaurants is good. The views from either restaurant are nothing to sniff at either. The Visitors' Center on the first floor has an interesting scale model of the Golden Gate Park. Here are links: [The Beach Chalet Restaurant](#); [The Park Chalet Restaurant](#); and [Golden Gate Park Visitors' Center](#)

Strawberry Hill, Golden Gate Park (in the middle of Stow Lake)

Shortly before Mary Ann moved from San Francisco (*Sure of You*), Brian and Thack took bag lunches to the top of Strawberry Hill. Sitting atop a flat rock, they shared a joint. Brian told Thack that Mary Ann's former boyfriend, Burke Andrew, was in town.

Leaving the park, Brian and Thack took the #29-Sunset MUNI bus up 25th Avenue. When the bus stopped at Balboa, two smart mouth teens boarded the bus and began to wisecrack about AIDS. When one asked if there were any faggots on the bus, Thack nonchalantly raised his hand and said "Yeah, over here". Slowly more passengers raised their hands until the passengers began to ridicule the teens with laughter.



NOTE: There really are no flat rocks at the very top of Strawberry Hill. There is one broken piece of concrete that is flat. However, there are several "flat" rocks a bit downhill at the top of Huntington Falls. Brian and Thack might have eaten their lunch there.

The website for [Strawberry Hill](#).

de Young Café/de Young Museum, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive (Golden Gate Park)

In 2005 (*Michal Tolliver Lives*), Michael and Anna visited the rebuilt de Young museum to meet Shawna for lunch. As they walked up to the museum, they stopped in front of the bronze statue of a half-clothed "hunk straining at a cider press." With some time on their



hands before their rendezvous with Shawna, they decided to visit the glass enclosed observation deck at the top of the Hamon Education Tower.



They then ate lunch at the Café which overlooks the sculpture garden. While eating their sandwiches, Michael told Anna that his brother, Irwin,

was coming to San Francisco to visit. Michael wasn't sure why his brother had decided to visit Michael.

When Shawna arrived at the café uncharacteristically on time, she insisted on showing Anna and Michael the *Pacific Parnassus* by Arthur Bowen Davies.

[The de Young Museum's website.](#)



Richmond

Pot de Pho's, 3300 Geary Boulevard

This was the previous location of Straits Café, a restaurant that featured Singapore cuisine.

One night after Jess moved out, Gabriel was alone in the house when he heard someone on the steps outside his door. He was startled but soon saw that it was Jess. Jess brought take out from the Straits Café. Over dinner, Gabriel and Jess explored Gabriel's feeling of guilt over the possibility that sharing with Ashe Findlay his suspicions that Peter Lomax might be a hoax may have hurt a very real person. (*The Night Listener*)

Straits Café relocated several years ago to the Westfield San Francisco Center (on Market at Powell). Since its relocation, the reviews regarding the Straits Café's food and services have gone done.

Updated: 23 December 2017