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Having a Party? A Restaurant for Every Occasion



Foreign Cinema sparkles at night

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The restaurant question we get asked more than anything is definitely: "Where should we go for my friend's birthday party?" Generally speaking, the situation involves a party of 10, more than a party of 200, but this restaurant short-list can accommodate a wide scope of food preferences, ambiance and number of people. Since we're of the mindset that hard booze never hurts, we've put a star by the restaurants with a full bar. Go ahead now: Celebrate good times. Common!

[Foreign Cinema](#)* (Mission District)

Cloistered from the funk of Mission Street, Foreign Cinema continues to be one of our favorite spaces in the city with its roaring fireplace, exposed cement walls, light-strung enclosed patio (which shows films on the outdoor wall) and worn wood floors. The Zuni-esque menu is no coincidence as chefs Gayle Pirie and John Clark are alumni. Beyond the large dining room, there's also the private West Gallery room that seats 72. Laslo, the bar affiliated with Foreign Cinema, seats 65 to 100.

Good for: Urbanites looking for oysters and Sancerre; a bloody-mary bridal shower; in-town visitors looking for a mix of grit and chic.