

THE TOP 100 BAY AREA RESTAURANTS

Foreign Cinema

Want entertainment? Sit on the covered patio and watch the movie that's projected on the wall each night. Looking to kick back with a before- or after-dinner drink? Go the Laszlo Bar. Desiring a romantic interlude? Sit in front of the fireplace in the impressive warehouse-size room. There's even an art gallery that can be rented for private events. Clearly, few restaurants have the broad appeal of Foreign Cinema, and the food crafted by owners Gayle Pirie and John Clark is the epitome of California simplicity and freshness. Weekend brunch is a must; don't pass up the house-made Pop-Tarts.

Cuisine: California-Mediterranean

Specialties: Beef carpaccio with fried herbs and capers; oysters on the half shell (up to 20 varieties); fried curry-spiced chicken; pot de creme.

Seats: 220; private rooms for 20, 45 and 75

Prices: \$18-\$30

Noise: ▲▲▲▲

Parking: Valet \$10

Vitals: 2534 Mission St. (near 21st Street), San Francisco; (415) 648-7600 or foreigncinema.com. Dinner nightly; brunch Saturday and Sunday. Full bar. Reservations and credit cards accepted.

