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THE TOP 100 BAY AREA RESTAURANTS

Foreign Cinema

This is a restaurant for all seasons and all reasons. The season is well taken care of by the fresh menu created by chef-owners Gayle Pirie and John Clark. You can sit indoors by the toasty fire in a grand warehouse-style space or outside on the heated patio, where movies play as the sun goes down. The reason is that there's something for everyone, from 5 to 85. There's even an art gallery. If you want to relax with a before- or after-dinner drink, head to the adjacent Laszlo Bar. Oh, and put it on your list for weekend brunch, and 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; butterscotch pudding.

Seats: 220; private rooms for 15, 20, 40 and 70

Prices: $20-$29

Noise rating: ▲▲▲▲

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.