

DEALS: BERMUDA, CAPRI, TANZANIA, AND MORE

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SAN FRANCISCO

Hugged by water, blessed by nature, brimming with cool restaurants—the City by the Bay is eternally appealing, but now it offers fresh reasons to visit. Freeways are morphing into gardens, comfort food's going haute, and hoods that visitors used to steer clear of are suddenly the place to be.

by BROOK WILKINSON photographs by TARA DONNE

HAYES VALLEY

The old freeway on-ramp that used to run through Hayes Valley? It's now a thriving community garden—just one example of the recent transformation of this neighborhood that visitors have rarely explored. Boutiques and cafés have now taken over the ground floors of many old Victorian and Edwardian houses on Hayes Street, bringing new life to a once neglected area. The shopping is varied: **Fiddlesticks** outfits San Francisco's youngest trendsetters, **True Sake** bills itself as the country's first sake store, and **Lava9** has a well-chosen collection of jewelry and handmade leather goods. The neighborhood offers fine beverages day and night: artisanal joe from cult favorite **Blue Bottle Coffee Company**, or expertly mixed cocktails from **Absinthe**.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

HAYES VALLEY

WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK

Absinthe 415/551-1590; absinthe.com

Blue Bottle Coffee Company

415/252-7535; bluebottlecoffee.net