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Chowhound

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Chowhound : The Chowhound's Guide to the San Francisco Bay Area before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Chowhound's Guide to the San Francisco Bay Area:

6 of 10 people found the following review helpful. PricelessBy Boris RozenbergI bought this just before taking a trip to San Francisco and, because of my experience with the chowhound website, decided to eat solely at places listed in the book. Every single one of the restaurants we chose to go to because of this book was a gem in its own way. My girlfriend is now another disciple of chowhound as a result. Now I'm reading the New York edition to find more great

restaurants in my hometown. Keep in mind that this book is a starting point for your research, unless you really know your way around the San Francisco Bay area. Otherwise, be prepared to look up locations and directions on the web. 21 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Lost in Translation: A balanced, Shillless Review By Sam Jim Leff, Chowhound's creator, includes a long disclaimer in this book's introduction. "Don't trust this book", he says. He even describes all of the food tips themselves as "iffy". This is one point on which I agree with him and it leads me to wonder if this book has much use or value at all to the casual user. If it's iffy, why buy it? The format of the book, a guide to eating good food in the San Francisco Bay Area, is a visual mess and difficult to navigate, just like the Chowhound.com website itself. I did discover some real gems of information like Melanie Wong's important message about duck juice but it was hard work finding them and more often than not I was just confused. The book contains discrepancies, anomalies, inaccurate information and strange choices. But I think the major problems are the bad layout and the fact that the entries are extremely dated. Everything moves so fast in the world of food. Aside from the most loyal of Chowhounds and obsessed good-food-foragers, I think the more general public just won't 'get' the cluttered, muddled confused format. I don't think people will be prepared to make the investment (time or money) needed to find the good bits amongst the chaos when they can find out the same kind of info online easily where it will be much more current and freely available. 14 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Hidden Treasures of Bay Area Chow By Joan K. Mocine I bought the Chowhound SF Bay Area Guide and had it shipped to work. No more work for me on Friday! This book is fabulous. I was sold on the Chowhound web site after I learned of a terrific taco truck located on the way to a class I was taking. No, not A taco truck, SEVERAL taco trucks where I could pick up a to-go dinner. This book is not like any other food guide. It's written by real folks who know what they're talking about. Chowhounds are a sophisticated group who are up on not only tres chic places with great wine lists, but neighborhood holes-in-the-wall with delicious and cheap Vietnamese sandwiches. It also has info on markets and places to get unusual ingredients. It's easy to use and is the best food guide book I've ever owned.

With more than 740,000 visitors a month, Chowhound.com has become a favorite source of information for those who want to take their dining experiences off the beaten path. So why should San Francisco eaters limit their choices to the same old locales found in most restaurant guides? As fun to read as it is comprehensive, The Chowhounds Guide to the San Francisco Bay Area is all about finding the perfect bite for every occasion, focusing on the undiscovered gems that will generate tomorrow's buzz. From the best Chinatown noodle shops and secret tamale ladies to sumptuous sushi meccas and sensational stock-up stops for a romantic Sonoma picnic, this is the richest treasure trove of San Francisco restaurants, cafes, take-out counters, delis, farmers markets, and food carts ever compiled. On the web:
<http://www.chowhound.com>

If you've heard of even a quarter of the places they mention, you're way ahead of the curve. -- Jonathan Gold, Gourmet magazine
From the Back Cover Praise for Chowhound.com "Thousands of food lovers swap tips on everything from which Queens street cart sells the best India dosas to how to get a reservation at Napa Valley's The French Laundry." -- Newsweek "The best web restaurant site" -- US News and World Report "The anti-Zagat's, for people who like food a little spicier." -- Matt Groening, creator of "The Simpsons" "My mecca was Chowhound.com... The Chowhound community has more passion for and knowledge about food than any other on the Internet." -- Forbes Magazine "If eating has become the first great cultural experience of the 21st century, chowhound.com is now the grand salon" -- Los Angeles Magazine