

Top 9 San Francisco Cocktail Bars

BY ANNE TITTIGER | Updated 10/12/18

This city has a lot of bars. Some are old, some are brand spanking new. Some are really divey and some are ridiculously swanky. Point is, our city runs the gamut. There are bars dedicated to cider here, specifically cider. (It's [Upcider](#), check it out). But of course, there are bests for everything. Here's our top 9.

01 Hard Water

of 09



VIEW MAP 

ADDRESS:

*Pier 3, The Embarcadero,
San Francisco, CA 94111,
USA*

PHONE: +1 415-392-3021

WEB: [Visit website](#)

Neighborhood: Embarcadero

If you like whiskey, this is your spot. It's right along the Embarcadero and its wide-open warehouse windows allow the city lights to spill into its low-lit space. The back wall is wall-to-wall glass shelving holding amber bottles upon amble bottles, subtly backlit to give them that extra glow. Bartenders us a sliding aluminum ladder to reach whichever bottle you point to. A personal favorite is High West's Double Rye, but chances are if you're whiskey drinker they'll have your favorite too.

02 Smuggler's Cove

of 09

Smuggler's Cove

VIEW MAP 

ADDRESS:

*650 Gough St,
San Francisco, CA 94102,
USA*

PHONE: +1 415-869-1900

WEB: [Visit website](#)

Neighborhood: Hayes Valley

Come early to avoid the line, as this hidden tiki lounge is a hit amongst cocktail enthusiasts. It's non-descript from the outside with blacked out windows and nothing but a small sign that looks like a pirate map, but inside you're transported to an exotic land with waterfalls, bamboo structures and lots of nautical rope. But the real star of this joint are the cocktails. Opt for a Volcano, a combination of rum, pineapple, lime, and passion fruit juice that comes to your table aflame. Note: it's meant to be shared so bring some friends too.

03 Horsefeather

of 09

Cherylynn N. via Yelp

VIEW MAP 

ADDRESS:

*528 Divisadero St,
San Francisco, CA 94117,
USA*

PHONE: +1 415-817-1939

WEB: [Visit website](#)

Neighborhood: Nopa

Transporting you to another era is Horsefeather on Divisadero. Its sleek wood paneling and art deco accents remind you of the 1930s, as will the glassware. But hanging plants

whiskey and bourbon all in one drink. Make sure to grab some bar fare to balance out the booze like chicken wings or pulled pork tacos.

04 The Alembic

of 09

ADDRESS:

*1725 Haight St,
San Francisco, CA 94117,
USA*

PHONE: +1 415-666-0822**WEB:** [Visit website](#)***Neighborhood: Haight-Ashbury***

A staple of the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood, The Alembic serves up all sorts of cocktails, including a mint julep over perfectly shaved ice. And the food is just as good with options such as bacon cracker jacks and pulled pork sliders.

05 Padrecito

of 09

Janice C. via Yelp

VIEW MAP 

ADDRESS:

*901 Cole St,
San Francisco, CA 94117,
USA*

PHONE: +1 415-742-5505

WEB: [Visit website](#)

Neighborhood: Cole Valley

This Mexican restaurant is worth staying for dinner, but if you only have an hour at least pop in to try La Copa Verde, which is about as green as a cocktail can get. Its combination of smoky mezcal, cilantro, and chipotle powder makes for a somewhat spicy but at the same time refreshing drink. If your not a lover of cilantro, don't worry there's still plenty of other Mexican-inspired cocktails on the menu.

06 Tosca Cafe
of 09

Breanne Furlong

VIEW MAP 

ADDRESS:

*242 Columbus Ave,
San Francisco, CA 94133-4536,
USA*

PHONE: +1 415-986-9651

WEB: [Visit website](#)

Neighborhood: North Beach

This bar is a San Francisco classic that has recently been remodeled to include a restaurant by New York hotshot chef April Bloomfield. But you can still hang by the old cappuccino machine and order a “House Cappuccino” which is really a combination of

07 Trick Dog

of 09

Aaron S. via Yelp

VIEW MAP 

ADDRESS:

*3010 20th St,
San Francisco, CA 94110,
USA*

PHONE: +1 415-471-2999

WEB: [Visit website](#)

Neighborhood: Mission

This bar is known for doing tricks and changing up the menu and theme every few months. That might mean all the cocktails are inspired by Pantone paint colors or it

or not the go-to bar food is the kale salad, which comes out piled high with nuts and a creamy avocado dressing.

08 The Interval
of 09

Giovanna R. via Yelp

VIEW MAP 

ADDRESS:

*Landmark Building A, 2 Marina Boulevard,
San Francisco, CA 94123,
USA*

PHONE: +1 415-496-9187

WEB: [Visit website](#)

Neighborhood: Marina

Tucked away in the Fort Mason Center, you can enjoy this spot by day with a coffee and amazing ice cream sandwiches, or by night with a very length cocktail list that will soothe any craving. The space, created by the Long Now foundation, is just as intriguing as the cocktails with kaleidoscopic artworks and a chalk wall that seemingly draws on itself.

09 ABV
of 09

VIEW MAP 

ADDRESS:

*3174 16th St,
San Francisco, CA 94103,
USA*

PHONE: +1 415-400-4748

WEB: [Visit website](#)

Neighborhood: Mission

Right in the heart of the action, this casual bar serves up inventive cocktails like a Tarragon Collins, which pairs the herb with your classic Collins for a subtle earthy taste. But before you order, flip through the menu. It's a piece of art in and of itself. Get there early though – the place can really pack up once the post-work crowd shows up.

