

I keep a list of all food businesses I've tried, and a record of my experiences at each one. Since I enjoy food so much and many people constantly come to me for recommendations, I've decided to publish a list of my top restaurants twice a year (one at the end of June/beginning of July for mid-year, and a second at the end of December/beginning of January for end of year).

# NKBC'S END OF 2019 TOP PLACES TO EAT

Includes:

- ▶ Top 29 **SAN FRANCISCO** Places to Eat  
(29 was chosen based on my current age, and the number will grow with my age)
- ▶ Top 5 **OAKLAND** Places to Eat
- ▶ Top 5 **NORCAL** (non-San Francisco & non-Oakland) Places to Eat
- ▶ Top 5 **SOCAL** Places to Eat
- ▶ Top 5 **USA** (non-California) Places to Eat

## TOP 29 SAN FRANCISCO PLACES TO EAT

(Listed Alphabetically)

<b>AKIKO'S RESTAURANT</b> \$\$\$ Japanese, Sushi Favorite Item(s): ika, gindara, sashimi	<b>BLUE BARN GOURMET</b> \$\$ Sandwiches, Salads Favorite Item(s): kickin' chicken sandwich	<b>BLUE PLATE</b> \$\$\$ American Favorite Item(s): everything!	<b>BRENDA'S FRENCH SOUL FOOD</b> \$\$ French, Soul Food Favorite Item(s): fried chicken, chocolate beignets, shrimp & grits
<b>DE AFGHANAN KABOB HOUSE</b> \$\$ Afghan, Middle Eastern Favorite Item(s): chaplee kabob, bolani	<b>DELFINA</b> \$\$\$ Italian Favorite Item(s): sfornato, roasted mary's chicken, goat cheese francobolli, dark choco bonet	<b>DUMPLING TIME</b> \$\$ Dim Sum, Chinese Favorite Item(s): green tea & milk bun, egg yolk bun	<b>EBISU</b> \$\$ Japanese, Sushi Favorite Item(s): otoro; all their nigiri, sashimi, sushi offerings are exceptional!
<b>EL TECHO</b> \$\$ Latin American Favorite Item(s): carnitas	<b>FARMHOUSE KITCHEN THAI CUISINE</b> \$\$ Thai Favorite Item(s): hat yai fried chicken	<b>FOREIGN CINEMA</b> \$\$\$ Mediterranean Favorite Item(s): their desserts, croque madame	<b>GARY DANKO</b> \$\$\$\$ American, French Favorite Item(s): everything! great dining experience!
<b>IL CASARO PIZZERIA &amp; MOZZARELLA BAR</b> \$\$ Italian, Pizza Favorite Item(s): burrata, diavola pizza	<b>IN SITU</b> \$\$\$ American Favorite Item(s): jasper hill farm cheesecake, cuttlefish cappuccino, caramelized carrot soup	<b>JEEPNEY GUY</b> <small>*based in Oakland but I've only eaten from their food truck/stall at SF events*</small> \$ Filipino Favorite Item(s): lechon, lumpia	<b>KEIKO A NOB HILL</b> \$\$\$\$ Japanese, French Favorite Item(s): everything was amazing! splurge on the wine pairing if possible
<b>LA TAQUERIA</b> \$ Mexican Favorite Item(s): carne asada super taco	<b>LIHOLIHO YACHT CLUB</b> \$\$\$ American Favorite Item(s): baked hawaii, shaved pig head w/ crispy pig ears, kimchi fried rice	<b>LOLO</b> \$\$ Mexican Favorite Item(s): calamari & octopus gorditas	<b>MENSHO TOKYO</b> \$\$ Japanese, Ramen Favorite Item(s): matcha tori paitan, duck & truffle ramen
<b>ROKA AKOR</b> \$\$\$\$ Japanese Favorite Item(s): otoro	<b>SHEBA PIANO LOUNGE</b> \$\$ Ethiopian Favorite Item(s): any of the sambussas, any of the african courses w/ injera, honey wine	<b>SOTTO MARE OYSTERIA &amp; SEAFOOD</b> \$\$ Italian, Seafood Favorite Item(s): cioppino, seafood linguine	<b>SURISAN</b> \$\$ Korean, American Favorite Item(s): kimchi fried rice, seafood pajun, k-tacos
<b>THE CHAIRMAN</b> \$ Taiwanese Favorite Item(s): pork belly bun, beef short rib bun, braised pork bun	<b>THE PROGRESS</b> \$\$\$\$ American Favorite Item(s): ham & cheese roti, peanut milk	<b>TONY'S PIZZA NAPOLETANA</b> \$\$ Italian, Pizza Favorite Item(s): motorhead pizza, meatball gigante	<b>TRESTLE</b> \$\$\$ American Favorite Item(s): milk chocolate custard w/ pomegranate, pine nuts, kabocha squash
<b>WAKO JAPANESE RESTAURANT</b> \$\$\$\$ Japanese, Sushi Favorite Item(s): great omakase experience!			

## TOP 5 OAKLAND PLACES TO EAT

(Listed Alphabetically)

<b>ABURAYA JAPANESE FRIED CHICKEN</b> \$\$ Japanese Favorite Item(s): fried chicken - garlic miso or curry	<b>BELLY</b> \$\$ Asian, Mexican Favorite Item(s): steak & eggs taco	<b>HOPSCOTCH</b> \$\$ American Favorite Item(s): yonsei oyster, black sesame semifreddo
<b>LIBA</b> \$\$ Falafel, Vegetarian Favorite Item(s): pita sandwich, pita chips, beet hummus	<b>MUA</b> \$\$ American Favorite Item(s): smoked trout salad, bread pudding	

## TOP 5 NORCAL PLACES TO EAT

(Listed Alphabetically)

<b>ANGELINE'S LOUISIANA KITCHEN</b> \$\$ / Berkeley Southern Favorite Item(s): fried chicken entree, hush puppies, chocolate cayenne cake	<b>CREPEVINE</b> \$\$ / Burlingame American, Creperies Favorite Item(s): tuscan savory crepe	<b>OLD FISHERMAN'S GROTTO</b> \$\$ / Monterey Seafood, Steakhouse Favorite Item(s): fisherman's wharf platter
<b>ONE POT SHABU SHABU</b> \$\$ / Cupertino Japanese, Hot Pot Favorite Item(s): house special broth	<b>OREN'S HUMMUS</b> \$\$ / Palo Alto Mediterranean Favorite Item(s): everything! amazing hummus!	

## TOP 5 SOCAL PLACES TO EAT

(Listed Alphabetically)

<b>BISTRO NA'S</b> \$\$ / Temple City Chinese Favorite Item(s): crispy shrimp, sweet fried rice cake	<b>DIN TAI FUNG</b> \$\$ / Glendale Dim Sum, Taiwanese Favorite Item(s): xiaolongbao	<b>JUNIPER &amp; IVY</b> \$\$\$ / San Diego American Favorite Item(s): chocolate yodel
<b>OTIUM</b> \$\$\$ / Los Angeles American Favorite Item(s): naan, beef tartare, spinach bucatini, black cod	<b>THE BAZAAR BY JOSE ANDRES</b> \$\$\$\$ / Los Angeles Spanish Favorite Item(s): paella night	

## TOP 5 USA (outside California) PLACES TO EAT

(Listed Alphabetically)

<b>CENTRAL BBQ</b> \$\$ / Memphis, TN Southern, BBQ Favorite Item(s): ribs - wet or dry, caramel cake	<b>HUSK</b> \$\$\$ / Nashville, TN American, Southern Favorite Item(s): fire roasted napa cabbage, shrimp & grits	<b>MARTANNE'S CAFE</b> \$\$ / Flagstaff, AZ Mexican Favorite Item(s): everything was great w/ huge servings! fresh apple juice
<b>PECHE</b> \$\$\$ / New Orleans, LA Seafood Favorite Item(s): salted caramel cake, smoked drum, smoked tuna dip	<b>THE SALT LICK BBQ</b> \$\$ / Driftwood, TX BBQ Favorite Item(s): all their bbq! beef brisket, pork ribs, sausage!	