

48 Hours in San Francisco

By Michelle Hespe | Published in May 2016

San Fran is the sweetheart of major American cities, bringing together history, fine food and wine, and iconic landmarks in a super-modern, well-connected hub.



WINE, DINE, DELVE INTO THE PAST

The Big 4 restaurant in San Francisco's popular (and incredibly glamorous) The Scarlet Huntington hotel is a well-loved local institution that attracts history buffs and those with a hankering for a more genteel approach to socialising. Not only does it ooze sophistication, old-world glamour, and history, it's a place of many cosy candlelit corners where wonderfully old-fashioned, personal service, music (jazz, blues, classical), fine food and wine create an environment to put the busiest executive's mind at ease. Established on Nob Hill in 1976, The Big 4 is named after the 'big four' industrialists—Collis P Huntington, Charles Crocker, Leland Stanford, and Mark Hopkins—famed railroad tycoons who played a crucial role in the development of San Francisco. The restaurant dishes up beautifully-presented homely meals of more-than-generous proportions, such as classic chicken hot pot, juicy racks of tender lamb, and pan-seared local salmon—but the chef's passion for locally-sourced produce sets the menu apart from many of the typical diners down below around Fisherman's Wharf. The Big 4 is like a gentleman's club that warmly welcomes the ladies, where it's easy to picture a gent in a three-piece suit playing the piano in the corner with a cigar and glass of Scotch on hand. And the place is packed to the rafters with art, sculpture, memorabilia, and historical photos that bring San Fran's fascinating history to life.

big4restaurant.com