

## 5 Haute Spots to Sip Perfect Martinis in SF

By [Katie Sweeney](#) | Published on June 24, 2016

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There is nothing quite like a perfect martini. It has the ability to ease a tired soul and relax an anxious mind. It's a timeless cocktail that, like the little black dress, will never go out of style. However, for a martini to be truly perfect, a series of elements must come together in effortless harmony. Every thing—from the type of gin (or vodka, if that is what you prefer) and vermouth used, to the garnish (lemon twist vs. olives) to and the bar in which you're sipping the bracing libation—matters. A certain type of atmosphere is required for the martini to be superior. The establishment shouldn't be too much of a dive, but rather a cozy and welcoming place that embraces ones need for a potent and boozy cocktail. San Francisco is a cocktail lover's paradise and many excellent martinis can be found at the wonderful craft mixology bars like Comstock Saloon and Elixir. Yet there are few places that elevate the martini experience to the next level. When you're in need of a truly remarkable martini, you can't beat one of the following five places.

### 2) The Big 4



The Big 4 Restaurant at the Scarlet Huntington is a San Francisco institution. Located on top of Nob Hill, the Big 4 opened in October 1976. It's named after San Francisco's most legendary industrialists, Collis P. Huntington, Charles Crocker, Leland Stanford, and Mark Hopkins. These men, known as the Big 4, were famed railroad tycoons who played an important role in SF's early development. The bar's decor and moody atmosphere harken to a forgotten time. The walls are dark wood and covered with framed black and white images from the Big 4's time. It's dark inside the intimate bar and low tables are flanked by green leather chairs. The martini, which is stirred until properly chilled, comes in a chic glass filled to the very top with your gin of choice.

<http://www.big4restaurant.com/>

1075 California Street San Francisco, CA 94108