

The Forgotten Wonders of Old San Francisco

By [Rachel Walker](#) | Published on January 16, 2017

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The Big 4 **Best spot for Belle Epoque eating and drinking**

With its stern oil portraiture, wood-panelled walls, green leather and open fireplace, The Big 4 will transport diners back to the city's early-20th-century golden age. Its traditional dishes (think devilled eggs and baked Fanny Bay oyster) and classic brunches (eggs Benedict and Blood Orange Mimosa) have lured the likes of Cary Grant and Luciano Pavarotti through its doors, and continue to attract those seeking old-fashioned elegance. The restaurant honours the 'Big Four' railroad barons who built mansions on San Francisco's Nob Hill, and is attached to the [Scarlet Huntington Hotel](#) (named after magnate Henry Huntington). It's still an exclusive part of town. While the restaurant is dressed with starched linen, there's a real buzz at the bar end, where the sound of tinkling piano mixes with laughter and the clinking of crystal glass.

Address: The Big 4, The Scarlet Huntington, 1075 California Street, Nob Hill, San Francisco

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Website: big4restaurant.com