enRoute

Hey Design Lovers, We've Got Your San Francisco Weekend Planned

From sipping pinots in Sonoma to soaking up harbour views in Sausalito, here are five stylish spots to bliss out in the Bay Area.



For the architectural design: Ram's Gate Winery

At Ram's Gate, architect Howard Backen created the perfect building structure for Orlando Diaz-Azcuy's intelligent interiors, an irreverent, bespoke-meets-West Elm blend that's completely unstuffy – the ideal place to sit and sip a flight of the estate's excellent pinots and chardonnays. Pick your preferred varietal and ask for a picnic lunch: You'll get a wicker basket with the bottle, plus finger-friendly food pairings by executive chef Taylr Behnam and a blanket to set out by the pond between the vines.

Sonoma, 28700 Arnold Dr., 707-721-8700



For the fashion design: Workshop boutique

After 19 years in San Francisco, Susan Kim moved her womenswear boutique (called Workshop) to Sausalito, taking over the ground floor of a charming clapboard Victorian cottage near the waterfront. Browse her well-curated, built-to-last assortment of handmade and independent-designer clothing and accessories (standouts include the universally flattering shirtdresses by former Ralph Lauren designer Samantha Sung, and Italian-made Pantofola d'Oro ballet flats). Kim has since turned the shop entrance into an edible garden and created a second-floor showroom – "Upstairs" – where a rotating schedule of trunk shows, local art exhibits and community events draws locals and visitors alike.

Sausalito, 52 Princess St., 415-322-1795



For the urban installation: Bay Lights

Board Freda B, a handsome 80-foot schooner, in Sausalito or at Angel Island. Kick back on the massive beanbags on deck while tucking into pesto devilled eggs, mini-cupcakes and bubbly – or hoist sail and try your hand at skippering the yacht (under the friendly tutelage of the real captain, of course). Either way, at sunset you'll have front-row seats to what's arguably the best show in town: Leo Villareal's Bay Lights, the largest LED light sculpture in the world. Eight times the size of the Eiffel Tower's anniversary light show, the installation spans the western facade of the Bay Bridge in an ever-changing pattern of illumination. (The Bay Lights show is currently seeking funding to stretch its current end date from 2015 to 2026!)

San Francisco Bay, 415-331-0444



For the hotel design: The Mansion at Casa Madrona

Built in 1885, this historic mansion-turned-11-room boutique property crowns the Sausalito waterfront, tucked into the verdant hillside overlooking the Richardson Bay Marina. The restored upstairs guestrooms in the Mansion at Casa Madrona feature accents such as blown-glass sea urchin pendant lights and punchy textiles. On the first floor, the standout two-bedroom Alexandrite Suite spans 5,000 square feet of indoor/outdoor space and opens to a terrace with panoramic bay views – the perfect spot for a private watercolour lesson from Bill Gates' and Warren Buffett's teacher, local landscape painter Sue Sternau.

Sausalito, 801 Bridgeway, 415-332-0502



For the food design: Coqueta

Part of the fun of staying in Sausalito is that you can ferry over to San Francisco for dinner. Head to celebrity chef Michael Chiarello's first foray into Spanish cuisine, the James Beardnominated Coqueta. The name – which translates as flirt – is exactly what he does with his inventive tapas dishes, like chicharon-crusted chicken croquetas or calamari a la plancha plated with onion jam and squid ink aioli. Though Chiarello's the man behind NapaStyle, the popular wine-country-inspired homeware store, the restaurant's rustic decor, from the imposing marble bar flanking the central open kitchen to the cowhides draped over the wide-planked floors, is his wife's design.

San Francisco, Pier 5, The Embarcadero, 415-704-8866