

CITY LIGHTS
SAN FRANCISCO HOLIDAYS

PASTA & WINE
CIAO IN ROSEVILLE

SLAMMED!
POETRY AT THE MIC

Sacramento

MAGAZINE



THE BEST OF THE BEST
named by fellow physicians





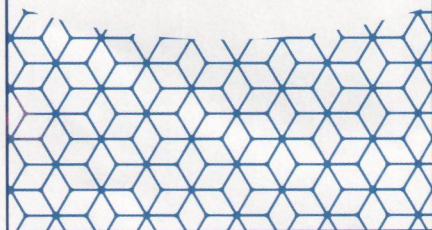
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Travel

FAIRMONT SAN FRANCISCO—The statistics are staggering: more than 25 feet high, 35 feet wide and 10 feet deep; 10,250 house-made gingerbread bricks; 1,650 pounds of candy; 3,300 pounds of royal icing. And thousands upon thousands of happy visitors have popped into the Fairmont on Nob Hill to admire the two-story gingerbread house that takes over the lobby—along with a massive holiday tree—each holiday season. This year's gingerbread house includes space for 10 people to dine inside—reservations are a must. Also, the Fairmont's Gingerbread Holiday Tea, held in the on-site Laurel Court restaurant, takes place on Saturdays and Sundays through Jan. 1 and includes savory sandwiches, miniature sweets, scones and tea, hot chocolate or sparkling cider. Stay the night with one of the Fairmont's holiday packages, starting at \$179 a night. Even the most standard

courtyard-view rooms are lovely, with pillow-top beds, marble baths and flat-screens. Upgrade to a "signature" room and gasp in awe at the view when you walk in—the skyline, the bay. If you happen to be in the area on Christmas Eve, wander over to a service at nearby Grace Cathedral. Go early or you won't get in, but it's worth a try even if you're not the least bit religious, just because the building and the music are so beautiful. *Fairmont San Francisco, 950 Mason St.; (415) 772-5000; fairmont.com*

THE INN ABOVE TIDE—Across the bay in Sausalito, the holidays take on a small-town tone, with a gingerbread contest (local businesses compete with the creations inside their establishments), Winterfest (a community event that includes a lighted boat parade and fireworks—this year's date is Dec. 8) and various art gallery openings and other events. An ideal place to stay, The Inn Above Tide sits right on the water, and its City Lights Suite (a whopping \$1,755 a night) faces the San Francisco skyline. On a clear night, the buildings, the Bay Bridge and all the lights glow from across the water. Sit outdoors on the deck, fireplace blazing—it's an indoor/outdoor see-through gas system—and you'll feel like you're on a boat, with the lights from the inn and Bridgeway (Sausalito's main drag) shining on the swells. It's a beautiful space, with a massive bathroom (including a deep jetted tub), king bed, all manner of lighting (important if

you like to read in bed while your partner snoozes), lots of current magazines and the deck that functions as a second room, complete with double lounge, dining table and plenty of plants. Ferries come and go into the adjacent dock, chugging out across the bay. Get up early and—before hitting the lobby for breakfast—walk the waterfront, fantasizing about a Sausalito lifestyle. You could ride your bike to the ferry or get a real workout riding across the Golden Gate to work each day, dine at Poggio (California Italian with windows open onto Bridgeway) or Fish in the harbor (freshest fish possible), take weekend sails on the bay. Heck, maybe home itself is a houseboat. To complete the fantasy, take

AT WHITE SWAN, KIDS WILL FIND A LETTERS-TO-SANTA KIT WITH SPECIAL POSTAGE; AT PETITE AUBERGE, THEY'LL DISCOVER SLIPPERS THEIR SIZE FILLED WITH SWEETS, FRUIT AND NUTS.

a wooden houseboat tour—weekends only, with a local guide who shares area history. (Call for reservations: 855-715-8090.) One last thing about Sausalito: Parking can be a challenge. Once you've found a spot, stay

there and cruise around town on bikes from Sausalito Bike Rentals. You'll see Blazing Saddles bicycles everywhere, but don't look for a shop in town—those folks likely rode over the Golden Gate from San Francisco and will take the ferry back. *Inn Above Tide, 30 El Portal, Sausalito; (415) 332-9535; innabovetide.com*

SIDE-BY-SIDE EUROPEAN STYLE—Adjacent to each other in Nob Hill, two inns—White Swan Inn and Petite Auberge—bring English and French holiday spirit to San Francisco with their Deck the Suites With Crowns and Candies program. Rates start at \$369 a night at these boutique inns, fully outfitted in English and French style (think florals and dark woods). Reserve with Deck the Suites and you can decorate your own in-room tree or arrive to a pre-decorated one, find a gift under that tree, receive in-room seasonal treats (traditional English Christmas pudding and brandy at White Swan Inn and hot mulled wine, cookies and traditional French kings' cake at Petite Auberge). At White Swan, kids will find a letters-to-Santa kit with special postage; at Petite Auberge, they'll discover slippers their size filled with sweets, fruit and nuts. Any guests wishing to donate a gift to Toys for Tots will be matched by a similar gift or cash donation by the hotel. *White Swan Inn, 845 Bush St.; (415) 775-1755; whiteswaninnsf.com and Petite Auberge, 863 Bush St.; (415) 928-6000; petiteaubergesf.com*



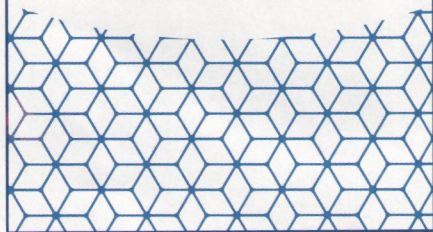
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