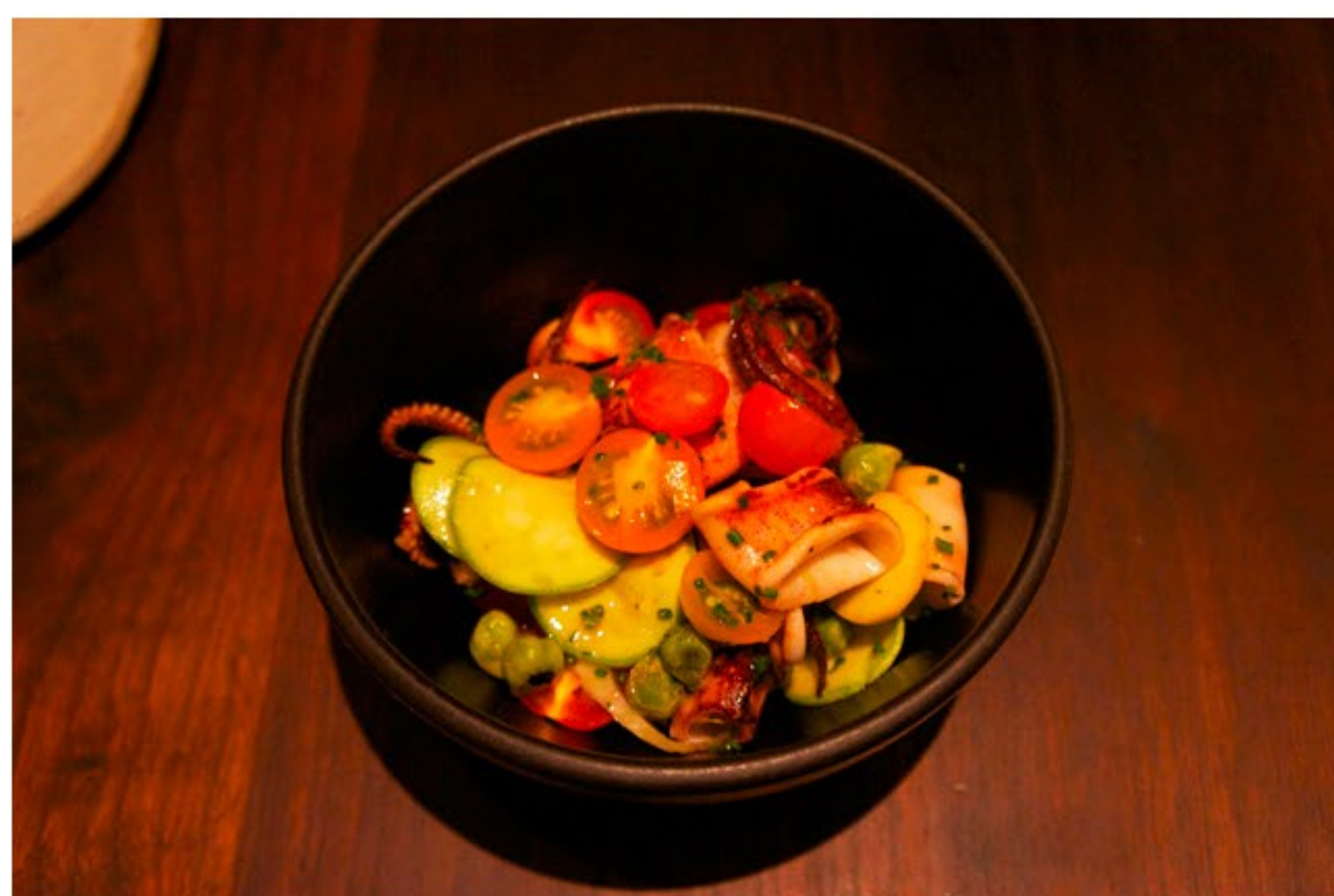


The 25 Best Restaurants In The Bay Area (According to Statistics!)



A cherry tomato and squid salad at Frances, ca. June 2013. Photo: Jay Barmann

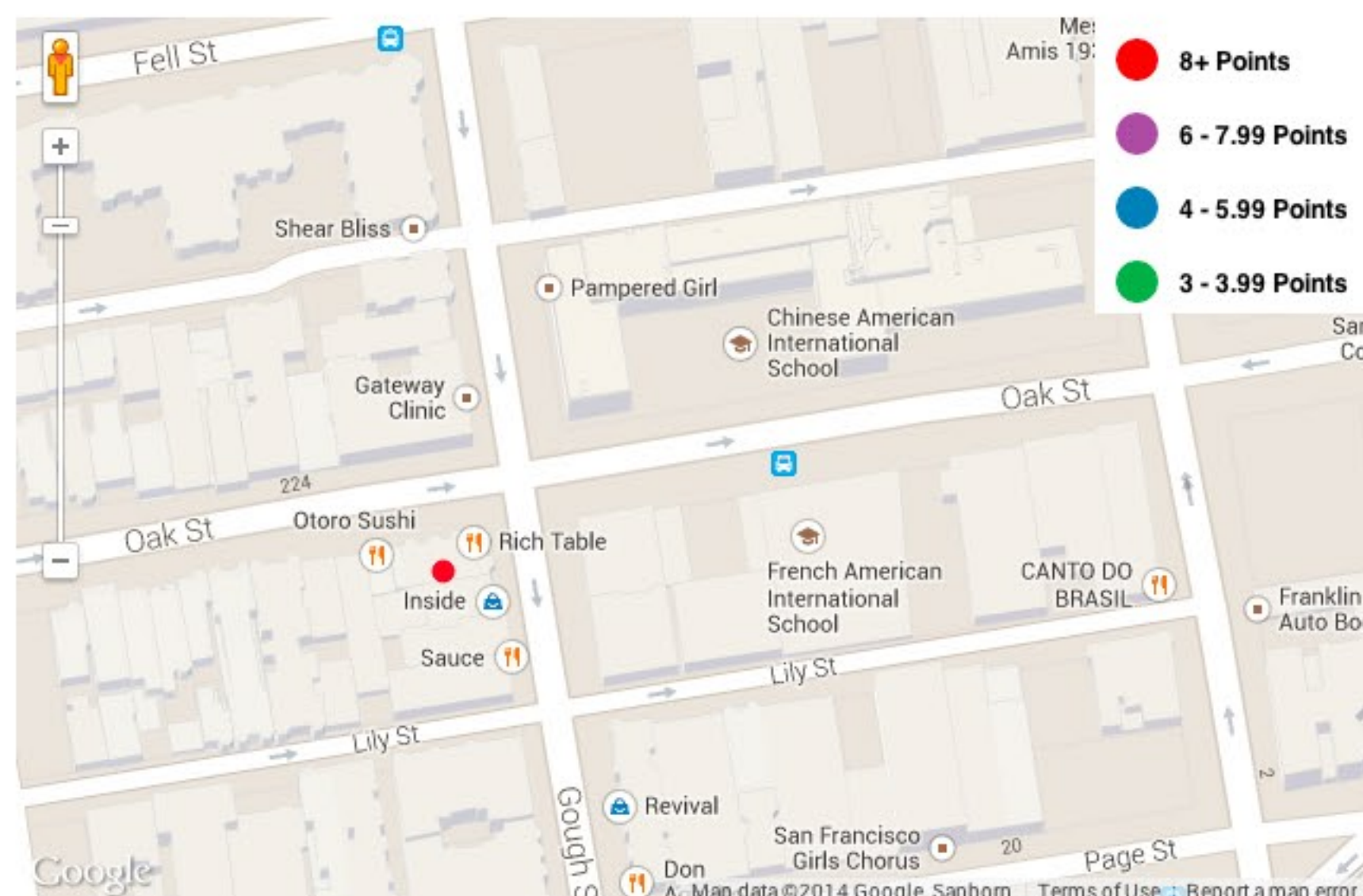
For the last couple of years, the editors of SFist have been putting together [Best-Of lists](#) of foods and restaurants based on both popular and our own personal opinions, but now it's time for something a little different. The -ist network's data guru Steven Melendez crunched through a series of restaurant-specific guidebooks and lists for San Francisco and came up with a statistical methodology to assess the restaurants' relative buzz, popularity, and critical acclaim based on the stars and raves they've received over time. And the results, I have to say, give us both a solid ranking and great picture of the top tier of San Francisco's food scene as it stands today.

That's not to say these are all super-high-end, ultra-expensive restaurants — the methodology corrects for price point, using Zagat's average price indicator, meaning that cheaper restaurants with lots of acclaim (like [Mission Chinese Food](#)) get into the mix too. And look out in the coming days for a separate map and ranking for the Best Bang-For-Your-Buck Restaurants in town, based on this same methodology.

Points were given to each place thusly:

- 2 points if it appears on the [Chronicle's Top 100 restaurants](#)
- 1.5 points for every Michelin star
- And 1 point each for appearances on the following:
 - [Eater's Essential 38](#)
 - The UK Guardian's [Top 10 San Francisco restaurants](#)
 - [7x7's Big Eat list](#)
 - [Epicurious's list](#) of San Francisco's best restaurants
 - [Thrillist's guide to San Francisco](#)
 - [Food and Wine's list of San Francisco's best restaurants](#)
 - [SF Weekly's Best of 2013](#)
 - Fodor's recommended [San Francisco restaurants](#)
 - [The SF Bay Guardian's Best of the Bay 2013](#)
 - The [Los Angeles Times's guide to SF cheap eats](#)
 - SFist's [Best Things We Ate in 2013](#)
 - [Lonely Planet's top San Francisco restaurants](#)

Below, SFist's first ever, statistically accurate ranking of the Best Restaurants In San Francisco, all in a handy map.



1. Rich Table (11.67 Points)

199 Gough Street, San Francisco, CA

You'd be hard-pressed to find a more buzz-happy restaurant in the last year than Rich Table, which Michael Bauer praised as "the next Frances" in his 2012 review and which went on to compete with State Bird Provisions for the national Best New Restaurant prize at the James Beard Awards. Thus, after compiling all of their points in our SFist methodology here, Rich Table lands at the top of the list, above all the two- and three-star Michelin spots, and above Frances and State Bird too, despite not yet having a Michelin star of its own. This is mostly because co-chefs Evan and Sarah Rich have built a menu around delicious but often unusual flavor combinations, brilliantly conceived salads, and must-have staples like those porcini doughnuts and the sardine chips. Combine that with a cozy dining room, well tuned service, endless buzz, and a great cocktail and wine selection, and you understand how they've vaulted past the rest of the pack.

2014 [Zagat](#) Food Rating: 25/30

Listed in 7x7's [Big East List](#)

Listed in [Eater's 38 Essential San Francisco restaurants](#)

Listed in [The San Francisco Chronicle's Top 100 Restaurants](#)

Listed in [The Guardian's Top 10 Restaurants in San Francisco](#)

Listed in [Thrillist's Where to Eat and Drink in San Francisco](#)

Listed in [SF Weekly's Best of 2013](#)

Listed in [Fodor's's Choice Restaurants for San Francisco](#)

Listed in [SFist's Best Things We Ate in 2013](#)

Listed in [Lonely Planet's Top San Francisco Restaurants](#)

[Steven Melendez](#) is a Brooklyn-based independent journalist who was previously a full-time member of [WNYC's Data News Team](#).

Contact the [author](#) of this article or email tips@sfist.com with further questions, comments or tips.

[Jay Barmann](#) in [Food](#) on Mar 24, 2014 12:03 pm

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