



THE 13 BEST LOCAL FOOD CHAINS IN THE BAY AREA

By Jay Barmann



San Francisco is well known for its fantastic restaurants, but also for its relative hostility to chains. Nonetheless, a number of homegrown chain restaurants and mini-empires have proliferated here, especially in the last decade — and did you know that famed nonagenarian SF restaurateur Cecilia Chiang's son is one of the main people behind the P.F. Chang's empire? While we might not look too kindly on Fuddruckers or TGIFridays taking over our quaint neighborhoods, locals nonetheless chow down on Patxi's Pizza and Super Duper Burger without a second thought, despite both now being legit Bay Area chains, with Super Duper now nearing a dozen locations — maybe because we just like it when things are born here. Below, SFist's picks for the best homegrown, Bay Area food chains, some of which have just arrived in the last few years, and one of which doesn't even boast a San Francisco location.

Gott's Roadside

San Franciscans might best know Gott's from its anchor spot at the Ferry Building (at one time known as Taylor's Refresher) along the Embarcadero, but the now-chain began as a roadside stand in wine country. Now the burger and beyond purveyor is rapidly expanding to spots throughout the Bay Area and even into SFO. Niman Ranch burgers on toasted egg buns and bountiful salads like the Citrus & Avocado Chop make this a go-to spot that'll please everyone. Gott's make for a great growing chain because the food is big, fresh, delicious, and not crazy expensive. Plus, they have a cute 50s-style vibe going on. It's like a more subtle, sun-kissed Mel's Diner with kale and rosé. Multiple locations. - Beth Spotswood