826 DIGITAL

Mentor Texts

These reviews were written by students from 826 Valencia, about their favorite places around the Mission District in San Francisco, California.

El Gallo Giro
986-998 Treat Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94110
by Rio Alcantar, age 9

Gallo Giro is a restaurant with wheels in the Mission on 23rd Street. I tried a taco of carnitas with cilantro and a spicy green ("verde") sauce. It was just a little spicy.

I had chocolate milk that was so, so chocolatey, with some Hot Cheetos (that were more spicy than the green salsa), and something sweet, like Oreos, but with mint flavor. It was the most delicious flavor of Oreos of all time.

It is a good taco truck because it is also really cheap. They do not charge 10,000 bucks for one taco, a juice, chips and cookies. It was all just ten dollars!

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Abu Salim's Middle Eastern Grill
1599 Haight St, San Francisco, CA 94117
by Zein Anderson, age 11

Whenever I go to Abu Salim's I order the same thing (usually), which is three falafels and an order of french fries and cucumbers. When you walk into Abu Salim's you hear Arabic music. You smell a grilled smell and people frying all kinds of Arabic foods. They have this paper, like a placemat with Arabic designs.

My favorite thing about the place is all the nice people! Whenever I go to Abu Salim's I feel very welcome, as if I walked into a new home in Palestine. You can't go wrong with what you order from the menu. There aren't many things that you will dislike. Most items on the menu are really great and take you to a special place.

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Little Heaven
2348 Mission St, San Francisco, CA 94110
by Yajahira Bonilla, age 10

Little Heaven is *actually* a little heaven on Earth. When I walk by Little Heaven or buy something from Little Heaven I smell amazingness: crepes, refreshing waffles, and enjoyable banana splits. My main order is Taro with Boba. Boba are little black circles that are edible and yummy. They have ice cream, and you can see how tall you are in scoops because there are scoops on the wall. You can put your back to it and see how many scoops tall you are.

The only weakness is how small it is. You might miss it or confuse it with something else when you are walking by. Little Heaven is a little gem in the Mission, which makes it more valuable.

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Dog Eared Books
900 Valencia St, San Francisco, CA 94110
by Donovan Epple, age 10

One of my favorite places in the Mission is Dog Eared Books because they just really have some good books. When you go to Dog Eared Books it feels like you are in Book Wonderland. The atmosphere is nerdy because there are so many books, and that is really good. They always have *Dog Man* in early so if you want to get the new *Dog Man* comic, you should go there!

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El Farolito

2950 Mission St, San Francisco, CA 94110

by Andres Santisteban-Perez, age 11

EL FAROLITO Y SUS TAQUITOS

El farolito es un restaurante de tacos, TODO en el farolito es muy bueno. Recomiendo ir a este lugar porque las comidas son deliciosas parece como si te hablaran y dijeran comemeee, pero en especial los burritos y las quesadillas de lengua, las quesadillas su queso se derrite y parece lava (pero rica) , NADA es malo en este restaurante, en este restaurante te quitas el hambre, porque las comidas son muy grandes y jugosas.

Yo veo a la jente comiendo escucho la carne cocerse en el horno tocó la tortilla de mi burrito pruebo el burrito delengua y huelo el tomate con cebolla. El restaurante está en sanfransisco, california en la mision, al lado del estasion del bart en calle 24. Yo le doy 4,5 estrellas de 5 a este lugar porque la comida es muy buena.

El Farolito is a taco restaurant. EVERYTHING in El Farolito is very good. I recommend you go to this place because the food is delicious, as if it is talking and saying, "Eat meeeeee!" But especially good are the *burritos de lengua* and *quesadillas de lengua*. The cheese melts and looks like lava (but yummy). NOTHING is bad in the restaurant. This restaurant takes away your hunger because the foods are really big and juicy.

I see the people eating. I listen to the meat cooking on the grill. I touch the tortilla of my burrito. I try the *burrito de lengua* and smell the tomato and onion. The restaurant is in San Francisco, California, in the Mission, next to the BART station on 24th Street. I give it 4.5 our of 5 stars because the food is very good.

I see a burrito. I smell the *carne asada*. I hear the meat on the grill. I taste a burrito with *lengua*. I touched the tortilla. My favorite foods in this restaurant are the *quesadillas de lengua* and the burritos of *lengua*. When you go there you are no longer hungry because the foods there are delicious and BIG. I think the weakness of this restaurant is NOTHING because all foods there are REALLY good. You should try everything because everything is delicious and juicy

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Mission Cultural Center
2868 Mission St, San Francisco, CA 94110
by Julia Lagunas Atwood, age 11

One of my favorite places in the Mission is MCC (Mission Cultural Center) because it is home to so much creativity! It is a big building with a colorful mural. MCC is a place for all types of art: music, art, dance, etc...

They have many programs, so if you'd like to learn, this is the place to be. They have a giant stage with so many rows of seats. They also have a summer camp for kids where you can pick two of many options of art to learn. It is taught by professionals.

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Arizmendi Bakery

1272 Valencia St, San Francisco, CA 94110

by Yasmeen Whitney, age 10

I tried the egg focaccia. It tasted like egg and cheese. The cheese was a bit thick and it had the egg in the middle. It reminded me of an egg and cheese sandwich that my uncle made. One reason I liked it was that it had protein. Protein is important for me because I am a vegetarian. I need protein, but sometimes I don't get as much as I need! But an egg has protein and so that was one reason that I liked the egg focaccia. Another reason I liked it was that it had cheese and I like cheese a lot! But if you are vegan you should probably not get the egg focaccia.

I don't just like Arizmendi's because they have delicious food, I also like it because the place is very attractive. The smell of the freshly cooked food is delicious and the look of the place is just amazing. I don't know why, but it is for me, and that is why I like not only the egg focaccia but also Arizmendi.

One thing that is great about Arizmendi is that they have so many different foods. They have savory, they have sweet, they even have delicious pizza! One thing I wish was different was that they had blueberry muffins, like the Costco ones I loooove!

Also I wish they had more cookies. I never really get them but I still love them. You should go because it is sooo good! I mean, if you don't want to go, then don't. More for me, yay! I would enjoy it. Go when you feel like it. Go to Arizmendi, their food is delicious!

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Wise Sons
3150 24th St, San Francisco, CA 94110
by Hyonia Kottas, age 8

Wise Sons is one of my favorite restaurants because there are amazing Jewish dishes. Wise Sons is located on 24th Street in the Mission in San Francisco. Before the pandemic, when we went inside, it wasn't packed ever, but there was always a decent amount of people. They are very nice. There have been a few times when something was wrong with an order, but they always fixed it.

My favorite foods are Matzo Ball soup and Challah. There are two different types of Challah loaves. The first is the sandwich bread type and the other one is the braided type, which is the more popular type.

Once, my grandparents came over so we went to Wise Sons (my grandma loves Wise Sons). When we got there it smelled amazing. My mouth was watering the minute we got inside. The Matzo Ball soup was as warm as hot chocolate near a fire. We had a really good dinner and went to Mitchells for a dessert after. Wise Sons gave us the best cookie ever! The next morning I had the cookie for breakfast. It was astounding! The cookie was as sweet as sugar.

Wise Sons has amazing bagels too! They are as soft as cotton candy! I usually get Lox and cream cheese with the bagels. The Lox is as fresh as cold water. Another fantastic food is the latkes. They usually come with applesauce and sour cream. They are as delicious as ice cream on a warm autumn day. My mom thinks they are crispy, soft, and delicious.

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Dolores Park

Dolores St &, 19th St, San Francisco, CA 94114

Bi-Rite Creamery

3692 18th St, San Francisco, CA 94110

by Gabriela Winton, age 9

Dolores Park is very fun. You can go on the slides and it feels like you are on a rollercoaster.

P.S. Do not go on the slides after you eat.

The swings are so fun. When you go on them you feel like you are flying in the sky. The grassy field is very fun, you can go to have a picnic.The grass is a little wet, but I don't mind.

If you are going to play soccer or catch, then you can forget about that. The ball will roll down the hill.

P.S. do not go to Dolores Park on Friday or the weekend.

Next to the park there is an ice cream shop called Bi-Rite and it has awesome flavors like honey lavender, black sesame, salted caramel, and stuff like that. But my favorite flavor in Bi-Rite is mint chip, it just melts in your mouth.