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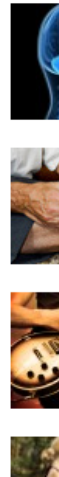


Going My Way: Have a 'gas' in historic San Diego

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Sample wines on your own at the Andaz Ivy Wine Bar. / Courtesy photo

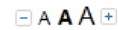
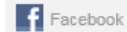


Written by
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As historical districts go, San Diego's Victorian Gaslamp Quarter is one of the most happening spots you'll find. The 16-block downtown area is crammed with sidewalk restaurants and trendy bistros, boutique hotels, a mega shopping complex (Horton Plaza) and a major baseball stadium. Settle in and get ready for back-to-back entertainment, grown-up style.



Visit Andaz for Flights of Fancy



Located in the heart of downtown San Diego, Andaz is a stylish, urban hot spot in its own right, housing the stars of Comic Con. Wrap-around views of the city's skyline, private cabanas and stylish lounges make the Ivy Rooftop pool area a popular gathering spot during the day and long after the sun sets for drinks by the fire pit. Try the "bed" in Andaz's Quarter Kitchen, tucked away in a cozy area of the restaurant. Guests wine and dine on a comfortable mattress strewn with a variety of soft pillows. Be sure to sample the laid-back Ivy Wine Bar with its state-of-the-art, self-serve wine station system hosting more than 80 bottles of wine, hand-picked by the hotel's sommelier.

If you go

Andaz, 600 F Street, San Diego;
(619) 849-1234 or www.andazsandiego.com

Searsucker, 611 5th Avenue, San Diego; (619)
233-7327 or www.searsucker.com

Petco Park/San Diego Padres, www.padres.com

The 159 guest rooms and suites at the former Ivy feature custom fixtures, flat-screen televisions and generously sized glass-enclosed bathrooms. Guests enjoy complimentary welcome beverages while being checked in via handheld PC, as well as

complimentary amenities such as wireless Internet and a mini bar with non-alcoholic beverages and snacks. The hotel is offering a summer “Flights of Fancy” vacation package that includes a \$50 credit at the Ivy Wine Bar.

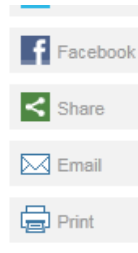
Foodies head to 5th Avenue

The historic quarter hosts more than 120 restaurants, each new one cleverer than the next. On 5th Avenue, make one of your meals at Searsucker. The 7,000-square-foot eatery with celebrity television chef Brian Malarkey's creative local fare has few walls or barriers blocking you from the chefs or other diners. Order your meal as you walk in, sit where you like — from cushy sofa lounging to high tables — and enjoy some of the most creative dishes around. Malarkey's “reimagined” dishes of American classics include Alaskan halibut with bacon corn broth or goat cheese dumplings. The menu changes daily and reservations are not taken for lunch, but be sure to reserve ahead for dinner.

Play ball

A baseball stadium in the middle of the city makes for a unique outing, and it is just a short stroll from the Andaz. In fact, some of the guest rooms grant great views of the scoreboard. Catch an evening or afternoon game and choose from a wide array of seating options.

Petco Park, home to the Padres, offers “Breakfast at the Park” before every Padres Sunday home game. Before the game begins, fans are invited to dine in the park area or at tables set up on the outfield and near home plate. It is not unusual for players and coaches to make appearances and greet fans as they eat. For another dining-ballgame treat, book an “All You Can Eat” seat. Chow down on all the hot dogs, popcorn, peanuts and sodas you can hold through nine innings or two hours into the game for \$29.50, which includes the seat.



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For questions, submissions or welcomed ideas for “Going My Way,” contact **Kathy Strong** at going.myway@live.com.