



Now UNION SQUARE

EAT + DRINK



When the holiday rush gets to you, escape into the **Press Club (5)**, a wood-paneled

“urban winery” with plush couches and eight tasting stations. Inside the Sir Francis Drake on Powell, **Scala’s Bistro** is now helmed by recent *Top Chef* contestant Jennifer Biesty. Her revamped menu includes a flawless Sonoma duck-breast risotto studded with chanterelles and butternut squash.

Restaurant king Michael Mina’s new **Clock Bar**, just across the lobby from his eponymous eatery in the St. Francis, opened last summer. We suggest the tuna tartare and, to wash it down, a Chartreuse Swizzle. Around the same time, Laurent Manrique and Christopher Condy opened their fifth downtown eatery, **Urban Tavern**, inside the Hilton on O’Farrell. The “Mediterranean gastropub” menu features such comfort food as mussels (6) and a chicken “bouillabaisse” casserole. Meanwhile, Hotel Vertigo—which in its former life was the York Hotel—debut in January and this spring will be the site of **Bar Florence**, the signature restaurant of Food Network golden boy (and Mill Valley resident) Tyler Florence. And in the JW Marriott, the warmly hued **Level III** is the place to sample a Cable Car No. 2, a Latin-infused take on the classic Cable Car served over at Harry Denton’s (which is itself a take on the sidecar): a mix of tequila, orange liqueur and lemon juice served with Ghirardelli cocoa and chile powder on the rim. Hotel bars aren’t the only place to drink in Union Square: Duck into **RR Gallery** during one of its wine socials and check out abstract artists like Susan Saul and Jean-Pierre de Rothschild. Later on, at the **Razz Room** in the Hotel Nikko, sip cocktails while catching such jazz and cabaret acts as Spencer Day (Dec. 9–14) and Tony Martin (Jan. 9–11).