

MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS



Foodie Cities

WHAT MAKES THESE 8 MEETING DESTINATIONS A GASTRONOME'S DELIGHT

BY MICHAEL J. SHAPIRO

If the way to your attendees' hearts is through their stomachs, the following cities should get you there fast. Each of these popular meeting destinations has food-love coursing through its major arteries, as evidenced by its food culture and varied restaurant options. Here we suggest a few good group venues that have won accolades from those who live to eat.

San Francisco

This city, locals will tell you, is so rich in restaurants that every resident can eat out simultaneously and there will

be a seat for all. To our knowledge this hasn't actually occurred, but odds are few would go hungry.

With nearly 5,400 restaurants, San Francisco ranks first in the United States in restaurants per capita, according to the National Restaurant Association. But even more impressive is the vast array of quality eateries. Two waterfront locations opened next to one another along the Embarcadero in January: **Epic Roasthouse** (415-369-9955; epicroasthousesf.com) and **Waterbar** (415-284-9922; waterbarsf.com) bear the touch of famed designer and restaurateur Pat Kuleto, and both feature second-floor private dining rooms with views of the bay. Epic, a modern steak house, hosts private groups of up to 60, while the aquarium-themed Waterbar, a seafood restaurant, can sit up to 50 in its private room.