

DINING IN THE VICINITY OF THE SAN JOSE HILTON

If you step outside the San Jose Hilton onto San Carlos Street, you may think you are entering an urban wasteland. But advance two or three blocks in any direction, and you will find yourself in the midst of a remarkable array of historic buildings, old-fashioned city blocks, and diverse ethnic cuisine. Three blocks on Market Street takes you to San Pedro Square, site of the oldest building in San Jose (Peralta House, built in 1797) and the Fallon House, built in 1855 by Thomas Fallon, mayor during 1859-1860. You probably will not be able to get into either one, but you can read the signage and enjoy the view from outside. If you arrive on Friday between 10am and 2pm, you can take part in the weekly Downtown Farmers' Market. At all other times, you can mingle with the Silicon Valley crowd at any of more than 25 pubs, saloons, coffee houses and restaurants in the five-block area.

If you turn right on San Carlos coming out of the Hilton, you will be heading towards San Jose State University. There are some collegiate-atmosphere lunch spots between Second and Fourth Streets, such as the Whispers Café and Creperie or a coffee house called Social Policy. One block over on San Fernando Street is a traditional Oaxacan restaurant called Mezcal. (Be sure to try the grasshoppers.) Close by are the highly-rated Nemea Greek Taverna, the all-you-can eat Taurinus Brazilian Steakhouse, and the Mudai Ethiopian Restaurant, with authentic homestyle meals and vegetarian options.

Back on Santa Clara Street, there are choices for every taste: a gastropub called the Farmers Union, an English sports-bar pub called Britannia Arms, and an amazing range of Asian foods: Korean, Japanese, Vietnamese, Chinese, Thai, and of course fusion. No one need go hungry at the EHA.

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