

SAN FRANCISCO

Green ambitions

HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS, RESIDENTS AND CITY HALL RATCHET UP THEIR EFFORTS TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT



PHOTOS BY JAKUB MOSUR/FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

BY ANN B. PARSON
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

For an East Coaster who aspires to greenness, the flight to San Francisco one late summer day was depressingly ungreen. The Boeing 757's lunch box of separately wrapped items produced so much trash, it took both hands to scoop it up. The plane itself, from coast to coast, released 100 tons of carbon dioxide.

This city, on the other hand, has the ability to soothe a greeniac's beleaguered senses. Despite being chock-full of the very consumerism that is choking our planet, San Francisco is taking laudable measures to curb its exigencies. It may have a long way to go, but at least it is headed in the right direction.

This year alone, the Board of Supervisors prohibited the use of styrofoam containers by local restaurants, and the city last month became the first in the country to ban plastic shopping bags in grocery stores, with drugstores to follow in May. In addition, Mayor Gavin Newsom, a fervent environmentalist, has put an end to city employ-

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Residents are encouraged to use public transportation; buildings like the San Francisco Federal Building make use of natural light and ventilation; and restaurants such as Jardinière feature foods from sustainable-practice farms.



PHOTOS BY NECEE REGIS/FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Proof boasts a wine system using argon gas to prevent spoilage, and the relaxed Central Michel Richard features whimsical interior design elements.

WASHINGTON

Savoring the capital

A whirlwind tour of new eateries shows why D.C. gets the foodie vote

BY NECEE REGIS
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Alas, a preelection frenzy has taken over this town, making it impossible to ride the Metro, walk the streets, or sit in a restaurant without hearing snippets of conversations about "Hillary," "going out to Iowa," and "this Romney guy." Everyone, it seems, is a politician, lobbyist, or lawyer (or two out of three), which sounds like the beginning of a bad joke about a bar. The unfortunate folks who live here have to put up with all this agitation — and they don't even have their own senators or members of Congress to complain to.

But don't feel too sorry for the denizens of the District. While we obsess more about the New England Patriots than the latest polls, those who live and toil in the fields worked by those patri-

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