

The best private dining rooms in San Francisco

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(Brant Ward / The Chronicle)

Quince: 470 Pacific Avenue, San Francisco

I got a chance recently to check out a number of private rooms, so I made a list of my favorite private rooms in San Francisco restaurants.

Original Joe's has an excellent private room that's tufted in leather. You close the door and the rest of the world is pretty much absent. It holds at least 20 people, and it works very well for these types of events.

For a more open experience, **Parallel 37** in the Ritz Carlton has one of the showiest rooms that's to the right as you walk in. It holds 18 and is enclosed in glass so you can still have a view of the rest of the world.

Asian restaurants are known for their private spaces. **Hakkasan** has two rooms that overlook Market Street so there's always an interesting view, and the room is comfortable.

Crystal Jade has an even more elegant room that overlooks the Willie Brown Bridge, the deck at the Embarcadero as well as that horrible fountain. This room is just perfect for 8 to 12 people.

If you like the idea of a wine cellar, then **Farallon** that is visible from the dining room and seats 12 or 14. Or there's also **Boulevard**, on the first floor behind the bar.

Michael Mina has been a master at incorporating free-flowing space that can be used for private events at both his eponymous restaurant and at the new **Pabu**.

The most clever of all is the **Cavalier**, where you can rent out Marianne's in back. It feels like someone's parlor, and it has its own bar. Then there's **Park Tavern**, where the room is elevated and it holds 30 or 40. It's not only a great space but the noise factor is reduced.

The **Quince** space is singularly the best but it's also singularly probably the most expensive. Last time I used it we had 20 people and I think we spent three months mortgage paying the bill.

However my favorite private room is the wine cellar at the **House of Prime Rib**, it's glassed in at the end of the bar and seats the maximum of 8 people. But here's the catch: It's not routinely used so you have to be a friend of Joe Betz.