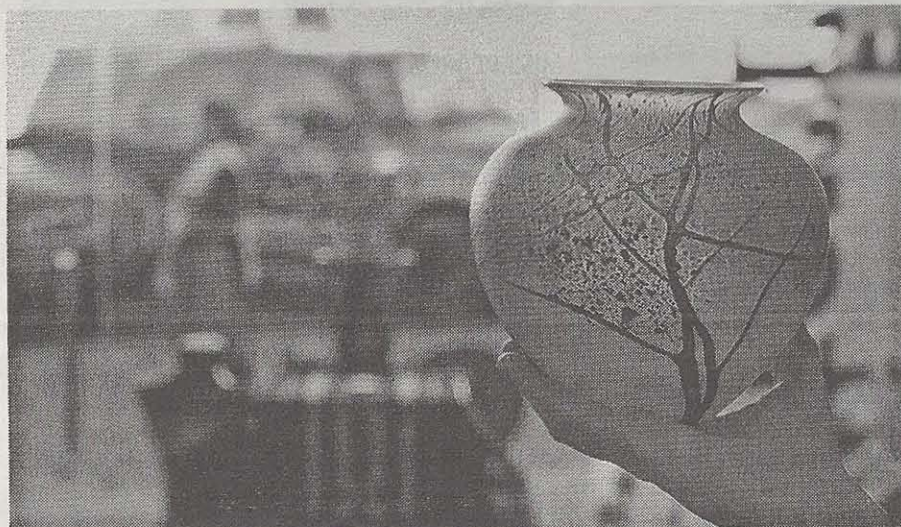


# Street date

**:: California Street, San Francisco ::** Though well established and known to locals, who buzz in and out of its shops searching for practical and pretty wares, Laurel Village is an enclave few others visit. A retail area in Laurel Heights, it's surrounded by quiet neighborhoods of attractive, neatly kept, single-family stucco homes accented with fanciful, decorative balconies and edged with well-tended gardens. Family oriented and affluent, it's where young professionals push strollers and run their daily errands. With a relaxed pace and amiable shopkeepers, it's a place worth exploring.

— Stephanie Wright Hession, 96Hours@sfchronicle.com



## 1. Cal-Mart

3585 California St.: At this family-owned grocery store, which has been around since 1952, there's an impressive meat, poultry and seafood department. Geared toward busy lifestyles, the store also carries prepared tomato basil soup, Caesar salads, saffron rice pilaf, take-and-bake entrees such as enchiladas and cooked items like roasted chicken. There's also an assortment of European cheeses. (415) 751-3516.

## 2. Standard 5 & 10 Ace

3545 California St.: Beyond hardware items, this variety store stocks retro-style tricycles, eco-friendly water bottles, a toy department with animal figurines, board games and more. There's also a large stationery department. If you're curious about the name, it harks back to the shop's origins as a Standard five-and-dime store. (415) 751-5767, [www.standard5n10.com](http://www.standard5n10.com).

## 3. Terrestra

3533 California St.: This gift, home and accessories store feels more like a fine-art gallery, thanks to its exquisite, handcrafted, artisan creations from around the world. From fluted-edge wooden bowls in hues of pumpkin, golden rod, pomegranate and green by Oregon artist Robert Wilhelm to ethereal, hand-blown glass vases by Missouri artist Peet Robinson, you'll

discover the unusual. There are also hand-painted silk scarves, leather handbags and geometric, acrylic jewelry. (415) 221-4438, [www.terrestra.com](http://www.terrestra.com).

## 4. Bryan's

3473 California St.: Viewing the front window of this traditional butcher shop will entice any seafood fan, with its neat rows of salmon steaks, sushi-grade ahi tuna, Alaskan halibut and large, wild Gulf prawns. Inside, it's a meat lover's paradise, where patrons press against glass cases containing cuts such as pork tenderloin, filet mignon and a rack of lamb. The small deli in back serves up fresh fruit, tomato and mozzarella salad and hot entrees such as salmon teriyaki. (415) 752-3430.

## 5. Rigolo

3465 California St.: This neighborhood cafe and bakery serves up freshly baked organic bread, soup du jour, open-faced sandwiches, pizza and French pastries. Dinner choices include steak au jus. (415) 876-7777, [www.rigolocafe.com](http://www.rigolocafe.com).

## 6. Wine Impression

3461 California St.: The owner of this wine and spirits store bases his selections on the places his customers enjoy traveling to. This translates to a bounty of bubbly, including bottles of Carpena Malvolti — one of the oldest and most prestigious



**Stop by Laurel Village on California Street to see the work of glassblower Peet Robinson, left, at Terrestra. Sheree Bayeur and Melissa Pitts chat at Rigolo, above, while Quentin Smith gets productive at Cal-Mart, top.**

makers of Prosecco — and numerous cases and shelves of quality California, Spanish, Italian, French and other international wines. Spirits include Obsello Absinthe Verte. (415) 221-9463.

## PARKING

Metered street parking on California Street in front of the Laurel Village Shopping Center and free, 90-minute parking in the lot behind the center for customers while they are shopping. No parking on California Street from 6 to 8 a.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays because of street cleaning.

## GETTING THERE

Public transportation: From the Embarcadero BART Station, take the Drumm Street exit and walk to Drumm and Cali-

fornia streets. Take the Muni bus route No. 1 going toward 33rd Avenue and Geary Boulevard, and exit at California and Laurel streets. **By car:** From Highway 101 north, take the Octavia Boulevard/Fell Street exit and merge on to Octavia Street. Turn left on to Fell Street and turn right on to Divisadero Street. Then turn left on to Geary Boulevard and turn right on to Spruce Street. Stay to the left on Spruce Street and then turn right on to California Street.

## GOOD TO KNOW

Learn about the city's firefighting history at the San Francisco Fire Department Museum, 655 Presidio Ave. Free. Open 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. (415) 563-4630, [www.sffiremuseum.org](http://www.sffiremuseum.org).