CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

GAZE WHILE YOU GRAZE & explore the earth's unique neighborhoods ... near and far

GAZE

THE MUSEUM

Pritzker Prize-winning architect Renzo Piano designed the Academy to integrate into the landscape of the Golden Gate Park in which it resides. It is considered a showcase of green architecture and design. The glass lobby redefines interior space since entering there simply gives you another view to the park on the other side. Inside, a light and breezy ambiance — like that of its natural setting — results from an inspired combination of concrete, steel, cable and glass. Atop the Academy, a 2.5-acre undulating green roof helps make the structure the largest Platinum-rated public building in the world and the greenest museum in the world. The Academy's multiple venues include a rainforest, aquarium, planetarium, a natural history museum, a 3D theater, a lecture hall, a library and a scientific archive for more than 26 million specimens.

Rooftop viewing of the vegetative roof is available until 8:15 p.m.

RAINFOREST

Walk through an amazing 4-story replica of a rainforest, complete with tropical plants and flowers growing heartily, and featuring indigenous birds, butterflies and reptiles moving freely (and safely) throughout. This 90-foot diameter glass sphere is the largest of its kind in the world, and its contents take cues from rain forests in the Amazon, Indonesia, Costa Rica, Australia, and others on our delicate planet.

Entry required prior to 8 p.m.

UNDERSEA WORLDS

Learn more about oceanic ecosystems and underwater habitats in places like the Philippines, Africa and the U.S. at the Steinhart Aquarium. This home to 38,000 live animals offers guests a chance to see sharks and stingrays cruise beneath their feet, check out the teeth on a piranha, admire the marine life on a 212,000-gallon coral reef, see the Academy's celebrated albino alligator, and get lost (figuratively) in a 100,000-gallon Northern California Coast tank.

Hors d'oeuvres served, but other food not allowed in aquarium.

GRAZE

All food stations and bars located in East Pavilion Exhibit Hall (left of main entrance)

CHINATOWN

Get a taste of one of San Francisco's favorite experiences when you partake of Asian cuisine like that found in nearby Chinatown.

Chinese dumplings filled with five-spice chicken, char su pork, or plum sauce bok choy; Napa cabbage sesame slaw; pork and lemongrass shui mai; shiitake mushroom shui mai; chicken and thai basil shui mai; sambal oelek; and black vinegar-green onion soy dipping sauces.

NORTH BEACH

Uniquely San Franciscan, this neighborhood is also known as Little Italy for the largest group of its original immigrants and the fine restaurants and cultural ambiance they created. North Beach today offers visitors much more, but we pay tribute to its Italian heritage.

Pasta carbonara with Italian pancetta and caramelized onion on penne pasta; fresh roma tomato sauce; summer vegetable mé lange; grated Asiago; campanile pasta; organic Faurot Ranch hearts of romaine salad with garlic anchovy dressing and Asiago croutons; and grilled ciabatta bread.

THE MISSION

A palette-pleasing sense of California's Latin American flavor awaits you with this menu symbolizing our host city's Mission District.

White corn masa served with your choice of toppings (chicken mole, slow roast pork or smoky black beans); tomatillo salsa; salsa fresca; and a variety of "pick your poison" bottled hot sauces.

DESSERTS

You might leave your heart in San Francisco, but tonight you will find the makings of oh-so-sweet memories.

Strawberry shortcake bar with sweet drop biscuits, fresh strawberries, and Chantilly cream.

The chef's seasonal selection of petite fours, including macadamiawhite chocolate, raspberry mousse in a chocolate cup, and chocolate peanut butter cut.