

The best counter dining in San Francisco and the Bay Area

By **Willie Brown** on May 28, 2014 at 3:08 PM



I'm ready to share my own personal rankings of restaurant counter dining. I eat every meal out and when I eat alone I will always sit at the counter, so I have lots of experience in this area.

I have a small handful of counters that I like a lot, but the best counter is at **Original Joe's**, right in front of the kitchen where they cook everything on the long menu. This is a tradition that goes back to the restaurant's old location that was open for decades in the Tenderloin, and they've reproduced it successfully in their new location in North Beach. Many counters are near the entrance or clearly located. The one at Original Joe's is out of the way, way in the back of the restaurant; in fact, I bet many people probably don't even realize it's there.

The second best counter, in my opinion is at the Steuart Street location of **Perry's**. Each seat is set with a placemat and for us regulars, the counter is always the most interesting place. Plus, two television sets over the bar provide a prime view when watching the Giants.

You can hear yourself a little better at the bar in one of the top-rated restaurants in the country, **the Slanted Door**. And you get excellent service, because there, the bartenders are as good as the floor servers.

Then for the rest of my first class counter dining list, you want to check out **Boulevard**, **Tadich Grill** and **1300 on Fillmore**. You'll find me regularly at all three places.

What are your favorite restaurant counters in town?