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Gitane, a sexy lounge serving top-notch cocktails that opened in late 2008, is tucked down another alley near the square, and a bit further away lies the new **Barbacco**, a boisterous Italian place that's equally appropriate for a business lunch or a post-shopping nosh—and far more affordable than its popular sister, **Perbacco**. The city's patchwork of neighborhoods often overlap: A case in point is Union Square, which butts up against the gritty Tenderloin to the west; in the liminal space sits **Rye**, progenitor of the city's fresh-ingredient cocktail movement, and **Millennium**, where vegetarian fare such as smoked cherry and chard roulade with a black pepper crust and roasted butternut squash coulis satisfies even the heartiest carnivore.

For those whose hotel sensibility veers toward the classic—and who are up for a splurge—Union Square is the place to stay. The intimate, elegant **Taj Campton Place** is located just off the plaza. At the top of affluent Nob Hill sits the **Huntington Hotel**, open since 1924 and as old-world and old money as San Francisco gets.