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If You Come To San Francisco

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 aurel Heights is a residential neighborhood better known for nannies pushing strollers than bartenders slinging Martinis, yet Sacramento Street now boasts one of the sleekest restaurants in town. "Spruce is like an Aston Martin parked among Volvo station wagons," said one customer who lives nearby. This restaurant puts you in a dressy mood, yet there's a casual, relaxed feel to the place. Owner-manager Tim Stannard transformed the 5,500-foot space—once a 1930s-era car barn—into a swank watering hole. With 30-foot ceilings, a spacious dining room, and walls and banquettes covered with dark chocolate mohair, the overall impression is grand, but not overwrought. Large paintings by abstract expressionist Kazuo Shiraga hang in the bar. The dishes of chef Mark Sullivan range from foie gras and gazpacho to Moroccan-spiced bavette steak. Spruce's wine list covers 1,200 labels, including 200 German and Austrian wines. Reservations are a must, but walk-ins can order the full menu at the 30-foot-long Carrera marble bar. *Spruce, 3640 Sacramento Street, San Francisco; (415) 931-5100, www.sprucesf.com.*

(Just a little something.)