



Effortless English

Cafe Puccini

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spot: place

immigrants: foreigners who come to live in a (new) country

period: time

served as: was

literary: re: writing and books

renaissance: a time of artistic improvement; a time of art (and science)

in particular: specifically

developed: made, created

style: way of doing something

challenged: disagreed with

conservative: traditional; old; against change

uniquely: specially; not like others

liberal: new; wanting change and improvement; open

credit: compliment; identify

renaissance: a time of great art (and science)

various: different, some

focal point: center point; gathering place

the movement: a change in society; a group trying to change society

anarchist: political group that is against authority and control

made history: became famous; did something famous

controversial: creates conflict or disagreement

shocked: surprised and angered

mainstream: normal (society, culture)

independent publishers: a small bookstore or publisher (not a chain)

wealthier residents: richer people (living in the neighborhood)

the literary scene: the writing situation (in the city)

entrepreneurs: businesspeople who start and own a business

My favorite **spot** in San Francisco is Cafe Puccini- located in the North Beach neighborhood of the city. North Beach has a long and interesting history. It was originally the neighborhood for Italian **immigrants** in the city- and even today it has many Italian people, cafes, and restaurants. As a kid, the famous baseball player Joe Dimaggio lived in North Beach.

The most famous **period** for the neighborhood, however, was in the late 1950s and the 1960s--when North Beach **served as** the center of San Francisco's **literary renaissance**. **In particular**, North Beach was home to the Beat writers and poets. The Beats **developed** a new, free, open **style** of writing. They also **challenged** the **conservative** society of America in the 50s, and helped create San Francisco's **uniquely liberal** culture. Many **credit** the Beats as the fathers and mothers of the 1960s cultural **renaissance** in America.

Among the most famous Beat writers were Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, and Gary Snyder- all of whom lived in North Beach at **various** times in their lives. The **focal point** of **the movement** was City Lights Bookstore- owned by the **anarchist** poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti. In the 1950s, City Lights **made history** when they published Allen Ginsberg's **controversial** poem "Howl"- which **shocked mainstream** Americans at the time. Soon after, Jack Kerouac followed with his books "On The Road" and "The Dharma Bums"-- and the Beat movement was born. Ferlinghetti is still the owner of the bookstore, and City Lights is still a popular **independent publisher**.

And North Beach is still home to artists and writers, although it has become much more expensive and now attracts **wealthier residents** as well as tourists. Even though **the literary scene** is not what it used to be- North Beach still has many family owned cafes. You'll find artists, writers, poets, **entrepreneurs**, musicians, businesspeople, and tourists relaxing together in them.

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named after: given the same name as someone or something
composer: someone who writes music
hold: have; do
animated: emotional; having a lot of movement and gestures

to mind: to be bothered; to care

the intersection: where two (or more) streets cross each other

hurry: rush; make you leave quickly

My favorite is Cafe Puccini, which is **named after** the Italian opera **composer**. The cafe owner is Italian. He often plays opera music, and every day he sits at a table in the back and chats with his friends. They **hold** long **animated** conversations in Italian, adding to the music of the place.

I go to that cafe often. I usually get a mocha, find a small table, and then write articles for Effortless English. Sometimes I study a little Spanish or Japanese. Sometimes I read. Sometimes I just watch the people walk by the windows. The staff never seems **to mind** that I stay a long time- they are always friendly.

On sunny days I sit at a table on the sidewalk, but now, during the winter, I stay indoors.

If you get a chance to visit San Francisco, stop by Cafe Puccini. Its located near **the intersection** of Columbus and Vallejo streets, in North Beach. Be sure to bring a book by Kerouac or Ginsberg. Sit , enjoy the opera music, and relax for a while. No one will **hurry** you.

Learn More:

North Beach

<http://www.sfnorthbeach.org/>

Jack Kerouac

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Kerouac

Allen Ginsberg

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allen_Ginsberg

Gary Snyder

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gary_Snyder