



Local Talent

Six unique shops in six unique neighborhoods showcase San Francisco's eclectic style

By Leslie Crawford

Buy that tin cable car from Chinatown, if you must. Who are we to argue if you wouldn't dream of returning home without a Golden Gate Bridge snow globe? But there are more San Francisco originals than the traditional tchotchke paraphernalia. You just have to know where to look

Following are six "Only In San Francisco" shops – each a refreshing antidote to the trinket trap; every one a defiantly original store endowed with one-of-a-kind gems. Your bonus prize for seeking out these off-the-beaten-track stores? You'll find yourself in six distinctive San Francisco neighborhoods, each with unique flair and flavor.

THE STORE: de Vera (29 Maiden Lane, 788-0828; Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.) has developed something of a cult following among the designeratti. The flagship store on Sutter (580 Sutter Street, 989-0988) has long garnered rave reviews in national shelter magazines for exquisite vases, bowls, and other high-end home wares. De Vera's newer, smaller store is devoted mostly to jewelry—all created by San Francisco design guru, Federico de Vera. His delicate necklaces, which make untraditional use of precious and semi-precious stones, are unquestionably works of art. The museum-quality merchandise includes de Vera's trademark Venetian glass from Murano, and unique artifacts that Federico brings back from his world travels: an 18th-century French ivory doll, a lacquer Kogo box, a Tiffany cigarette case from the '20s.

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