

Market Analysis - Opening a Restaurant in SF – Reno Vieira Neto

Introduction:

A friend is thinking about opening a restaurant in San Francisco, however, he's not sure about which Neighborhood might be the best place. Besides, he doesn't know what type of cuisine either, therefore, he'd like to know what type of restaurants are more frequent in different areas of the city.

Data:

My idea is to use Foursquare's API to download different restaurants information about each Neighborhood, so I can easily see which restaurants are more popular in different areas of the city. Besides, I think it'd be great to know the population of each area, which is the 'potential market' for the restaurant and the race distribution, so we could maybe identify a good opportunity (a certain type of cuisine that is not being offered yet).

Note: The problem with the API is that it's limited to 100 venues per call, therefore, our analysis could be compromised by the fact that we don't have access to all the data.

Methodology:

After extracting all the data, some cleaning was necessary, because most of the venues that I got from Foursquare were Coffee Shops, then I noticed that most of restaurants have the word 'Restaurant' as 'Category', therefore, I kept only records with the 'Restaurant' word.

Later on, I realized that one of the Neighborhoods was missing population information and this was due to the fact that the source that I've used to extract the population information was grouping different zip codes, so I went back and updated the script to make every zip code unique.

Exploratory:

Total number of unique restaurant types

- During the exploratory analysis I was curious about the **total number of unique restaurant types** that I had on my data frame, for my surprise, I had 61 different restaurants! Which was way more than I was expecting, probably I cannot even think about 10 different types ... But that's a consequence of San Francisco and its diversity.

Most frequent type of cuisine that we have in the city

I was curious about the **most frequent type of cuisine that we have in the city** (picture on the right side) and I was surprised to see the total number of each category, San Francisco not only has a lot of different types, but also has a lot of options within those types.

Venue Category	
Mexican	20
Sushi	19
Italian	19
Japanese	19
Vietnamese	18
American	18
Thai	18
Korean	17
Indian	16
Seafood	16

Neighborhoods with higher concentration of different cuisines

I thought that maybe it would be great to understand the market a bit more by understanding which **neighborhoods have higher concentration of different cuisines**. In order to do that, I grouped the data frame by Neighborhood and Cuisine, did a count of it and kept only records with 8+ count.

	Neighborhood	Venue Category	Venue	Zip Code	Population	Total Venue	Pop/Venue
5	Bayview-Hunters Point	Chinese	8	94124	35492	37	959.24
116	Hayes Valley/Tenderloin/North of Market	Sushi	8	94102	30140	62	486.13
133	Ingelside-Excelsior/Crocker-Amazon	Mexican	8	94112	85373	52	1641.79
153	Inner Mission/Bernal Heights	Mexican	11	94110	73737	59	1249.78
193	Lake Merced	Chinese	9	94132	31155	52	599.13
219	Marina	Italian	9	94123	25461	60	424.35
241	North Beach/Chinatown	Italian	9	94133	26942	60	449.03
257	Parkside/Forest Hill	Chinese	23	94116	47708	64	745.44
286	Polk/Russian Hill (Nob Hill)	Italian	8	94109	56587	65	870.57
299	Polk/Russian Hill (Nob Hill)	Sushi	8	94109	56587	65	870.57
347	South of Market	Sushi	8	94103	26990	64	421.72
377	Sunset	Chinese	9	94122	62516	63	992.32
410	Twin Peaks-Glen Park	Italian	8	94131	29056	60	484.27
441	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	Mexican	9	94134	43074	49	879.06
459	Western Addition/Japantown	Italian	9	94115	35751	60	595.85
470	Western Addition/Japantown	Sushi	8	94115	35751	60	595.85

The Highlights from the analysis were the following:

- Mexican Restaurants are mostly located in Inner Mission/Bernal Heights. Opening a new Mexican place would be really challenging over there.

- Parkside/Forest Hill look like a good place for Chinese food, however, not a good place to open a new one.

Population/Venue Analysis

I had an idea of creating a ratio of Population/Venue, basically the plan was to identify populated neighborhoods with not lots of restaurants, which could represent potential places to open new restaurants.

	Neighborhood	Pop/Venue	Total Venue	Population
120	Ingelside-Excelsior/Crocker-Amazon	1641.79	52	85373
141	Inner Mission/Bernal Heights	1249.78	59	73737
375	Sunset	992.32	63	62516
0	Bayview-Hunters Point	959.24	37	35492
427	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	879.06	49	43074
277	Polk/Russian Hill (Nob Hill)	870.57	65	56587
254	Parkside/Forest Hill	745.44	64	47708
70	Haight-Ashbury	726.83	60	43610
166	Inner Richmond	668.02	62	41417
190	Lake Merced	599.13	52	31155
451	Western Addition/Japantown	595.85	60	35751
303	Potrero Hill	575.38	52	29920
13	Castro/Noe Valley	566.57	61	34561
96	Hayes Valley/Tenderloin/North of Market	486.13	62	30140
401	Twin Peaks-Glen Park	484.27	60	29056
232	North Beach/Chinatown	449.03	60	26942
351	St. Francis Wood/Miraloma/West Portal	448.79	47	21093
210	Marina	424.35	60	25461
325	South of Market	421.72	64	26990
42	Chinatown	232.12	64	14856

With that analysis I was able to conclude the following:

- Mexican Restaurants are mostly located in Inner Mission/Bernal Heights. Opening a new Mexican place would be really challenging over there.
- Parkside/Forest Hill look like a good place for Chinese food, however, not a good place to open a new one.

And my recommendation was to choose neighborhoods with less restaurants to reduce the number of competitors: Bayview-Hunters Point and Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale.

Race Analysis

After merging the race information with both potential neighborhoods that I was able to identify:

- Restaurant type in Bayview-Hunters Point:

	Zip Code	Race	Population
0	94134	Asian - Chinese	41.122952
1	94134	White	16.918398
2	94134	Some Other Race	12.167446
3	94134	Asian - Filipino	10.386159
4	94134	Black or African American	9.974699

The recommended cuisine in this area would be African cuisine, given that Black or African American represents 35% of the area and I see only 4 Southern/Soul Food restaurants.

Filipino cuisine could be also a possibility, despite the Filipino population not being really big in the area, I don't see any Filipino restaurants in the area.

- Restaurant type in Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale:

	Neighborhood	Venue Category	Venue	Zip Code	Population	Total Venue	Pop/Venue
441	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	Mexican	9	94134	43074	49	879.06
450	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	Vietnamese	5	94134	43074	49	879.06
447	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	Southern / Soul Food	4	94134	43074	49	879.06
440	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	Latin American	4	94134	43074	49	879.06
429	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	Asian	3	94134	43074	49	879.06
442	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	New American	2	94134	43074	49	879.06
448	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	Sushi	2	94134	43074	49	879.06
435	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	Hunan	2	94134	43074	49	879.06
437	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	Italian	2	94134	43074	49	879.06
428	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	American	2	94134	43074	49	879.06
449	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	Thai	1	94134	43074	49	879.06
446	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	Seafood	1	94134	43074	49	879.06
445	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	Salvadoran	1	94134	43074	49	879.06
444	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	Restaurant	1	94134	43074	49	879.06
443	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	Peruvian	1	94134	43074	49	879.06
427	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	African	1	94134	43074	49	879.06
438	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	Japanese	1	94134	43074	49	879.06
436	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	Indian	1	94134	43074	49	879.06
434	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	Filipino	1	94134	43074	49	879.06
433	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	Fast Food	1	94134	43074	49	879.06
432	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	Dim Sum	1	94134	43074	49	879.06
431	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	Chinese	1	94134	43074	49	879.06
430	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	Caribbean	1	94134	43074	49	879.06
439	Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale	Korean	1	94134	43074	49	879.06

A Chinese restaurant could be a good idea in the area, if you look at the population data frame, Chinese represents 41% of the population while we have only one Chinese restaurant in the area.

Filipino could also be a possibility here, given the size of the population and the fact that there's only one Filipino restaurant in the area.

Conclusion:

More data would be necessary to make a precise recommendation, it would be also interesting to see the rent price in each area, so we could estimate how expensive it would be to have a restaurant in each area. Another point is that we don't have all the data, the API limits to 100 venues per call, therefore, it's possible that the data is not complete.

Also, the population data is based off people who resides in the area, therefore, it's possible that during the day the distribution is different. Downtown areas will be busier during the week and it's important to know exactly what type of restaurant we are trying to create.

Regardless, I think that this is already good for my friend, he will be happy with my suggestions.