



# Effortless English

## Cafe Puccini Quán Cà Phê 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](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Kerouac)

#### Allen Ginsberg

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allen\\_Ginsberg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allen_Ginsberg)

#### Gary Snyder

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gary\\_Snyder](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gary_Snyder)