

# City Beat

*There are eight million stories in my albums. This is one of them...*

Bernstein's Fish Grotto was a popular restaurant in San Francisco, California, USA that operated from 1912 to 1981.

Opened by Maurice Bernstein (1886-1932) in 1912, Bernstein's Fish Grotto was known for its unique entrance, a ship's bow jutting into the sidewalk. It was intended to be a reproduction of Christopher Columbus' ship Niña. Inside the restaurant, the marine theme continued. Bernstein's had seven dining rooms styled to look like ship's cabins: the Fisherman's Cave, the Pilot Room, the Sun Deck, the Main Salon, the Cabin Nooks, the Upper Deck, and the Porthole Counter.

Advertising called it "The Ship that Never Sailed." Despite the fact that the restaurant never saw the sea, they did serve fresh fish and a number of signature dishes. Maurice Bernstein was an Oakland fish merchant who ran a number of eateries in the Bay Area. According to San Francisco's *Lost Landmarks*, the Fish Grotto served three dishes found nowhere else in the city: abalone steaks, mussels bordelaise and coo-coo clams (from Coo-Coo Cove).

Located at 123 Powell Street, near the end of the cable car line, the Grotto was a popular tourist attraction for many years. It closed in 1981. There is now a Walgreens drugstore at the site. [<http://www.artandarchitecture-sf.com/bernsteins-fish-grotto.html>; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernstein%27s\\_Fish\\_Grotto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernstein%27s_Fish_Grotto)]

