



SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND/BERKELEY
The Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989 was viewed live on television by hundreds of thousands of World Series fans, whetting the public's appetite for a new phenomenon to come: reality T.V.

"other places only make me love you best" -G. Kahn

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2 The people have already spoken: Laiola best new Marina restaurant



If the buzz on the street accurately reflects the realities of the new [Laiola](#) restaurant, we'd say, "Get there as soon as you can."

The Yelp.com crowd can't stop raving: "A breath of fresh air in the Spanish small plate scene"; "Laiola is actually striving for some culinary authenticity"; "Great addition to the Marina"; "The servers were kind and talented"; "The folks at Laiola did a great job of designing a space that is both stylish and neighborhood casual -- exactly the right vibe for Chestnut Street".

And the food? Chef Mark Denham and owners Joe Hargrave and Andrew McCormack have a tapas menu with selections like sweet Catalan-style pork sausage, Bacon-wrapped dates stuffed with chorizo, arugula salad with warm peaches and ham ... are you hungry yet? We are.

As for liquid refreshments? There's the rub. "Opening without a liquor license is a little odd but who's really going to complain about free corkage?" wrote one Yelper. Apparently, as liquor and Spanish wine service gets worked out, the owners creatively struck a BYOB deal with an nearby wine store ... saving customers a bundle on the bar bill.

And dessert? "The cheesecake is no ordinary dish here. The tartness of the goat cheese, combined with the honey and fruit was the perfect combination. The melt in your mouth chocolate, paired with the salt and creaminess of the olive oil made us reluctant to put our spoons down." We're sold. Laiola **just opened July 16, 2011**
Chestnut St., 415.346.5641.

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