

Diablo Magazine

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The worst-kept secret in Berkeley, little La Note is jam-packed by 11 every morning, and for good reason. Eating breakfast here is undoubtedly one of the best ways to rise and shine in the Bay Area. Who knows what chef-owner Dorothee Mitrani-Bell does to that coffee, but it's magnificent- deep brown and creamy and served in a wide ceramic bowl. The food that follows is every bit as noteworthy: the emmenthal cheese and ham (make that fromage et jambon) omelette is fluffy and fresh, the cinnamon French toast (er brioche pain perdu) is thick and soaked in orange water batter, and the homefries (no French, just homefries) are perfectly garlicky. Lunch and dinner service also boasts a menu full of fine, Provencal selections, and you probably won't have to wait an hour to get seated.