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THE BEST OF SF RESTAURANTS **DINE**

INSIDE: Basil Thai's baby sister. Meatballs: the new burger. A Frenchman's obsession. EDITED BY JESSICA BATTILANA **10.08**

Taste Test

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs

The burger used to be assigned this comfort-food role. On every menu and made with everything from turkey to lamb, it was the safe choice for nervous diners, but chefs weren't afraid to make it their own, subbing aioli for mayo, house-made pickles for Vlasic. Now meatballs fill the position: **Jardinière's** lounge menu lists duck meatballs (with Mission figs and lucques olives) among the options, **Anchor & Hope** sinks a few chorizo meatballs into the monkfish stew and **Bong Su**



serves a juicy beef-and-cumin version. Of course, the classics persist—people still go wild for the chicken meatballs with peperonata at **A16** and the lamb incarnation at **Aziza**, which arrives threaded on skewers, alternating with green grapes. Rumor has it that when the new **Pizzeria Delfina** opens on California this fall, the legendary ricotta-enriched meatballs will frequently appear. Meatballs have gone global; spaghetti is no longer required.

—JESSICA BATTILANA