

## Currant

### Lounging

BY VALERIE JENNISON



location > 140 West Broadway, downtown  
phone > 619-702-6309  
web site > [currantrestaurant.com](http://currantrestaurant.com)

**THE NEWLY RENOVATED** Sofia Hotel's Currant American Brasserie & Bar aims to redefine San Diego's upscale-hotel dining scene. Following in the footsteps of Gaslamp Quarter hot spots Envy (The Ivy) and Minus One (The Keating), the establishment has opened its doors to show elite hotel lovers and restaurant connoisseurs Sofia offers much more than a posh place to sleep. Currant, whose name refers to the small, sweet berry used in baking, has been busy cooking up some sweet confections since its inception in September.

**VIBE:** Miami meets San Francisco in this urban-chic dining establishment. A splash of modern minimalism and a touch of class are the key ingredients. Currant's clientele is a pastiche of downtown denizens and haute hotel guests.

**DÉCOR:** Old world meets new in simple, contemporary elegance. Thin, vine-like twigs serve as the backdrop for the semicircular bar's vast wine collection. Pillars painted with lifelike currants create an enchanting optical illusion for patrons, while booths and tables offer a more intimate alternative. Opposite the bar, the dining room offers open seating in a classy, graceful setting.

**EATS & DRINKS:** Scrumptious light-fare options perfect for wine pairing include plump green olives, tuna tartare and blue lump crab cakes. Another favorite to savor: the charcuterie plate, a delectable combination of artisan cheeses, cured meats and pickled vegetables. For those weary of wine, Currant offers a multitude of specialty cocktails. Try the lavender lemon sour, a cool concoction of Absolut Citron, lavender lemonade and Chambord served in a sugar-rimmed highball glass.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Not only a great place to grab a glass of wine at the end of a long work week, Currant is also a perfect candidate for an upscale business lunch or a weekday afternoon treat. The lounge is open daily till 1 a.m.; the dining room serves lunch Monday through Friday and dinner nightly.



The outside patio offers patrons an informal atmosphere and a great place to people-watch.