



POWER TABLES
WHERE THE BUSINESS ELITE ARE EATING

Il Fornaio, Palo Alto, Calif.

IN DOWNTOWN PALO ALTO, CALIF., amid Silicon Valley's venture-capital firms and start-up technology companies, is the restaurant Il Fornaio, part of a regional chain of Italian eateries and a venue for deal making. The backroom is where business is discussed—it's where Apple CEO **Steve Jobs** sits when he comes in for pizza sans cheese—while the front attracts the see-and-be-seen crowd, like U2's **Bono** and **Condoleezza Rice** (once the provost at nearby Stanford).

—*Jessie Knadler*

RECENT SIGHTINGS

Former 49ers **Ronnie Lott** and **Harris Barton**, partners with Joe Montana in HRJ Capital, an investment-management firm, were spotted at table 65. Real-estate developer John Arrillaga, who gave \$100 million to Stanford, sat at table 65. **John Doerr**, partner at venture-capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, which helped finance Google and Amazon, sat at table 16. Palo Alto's mayor, **Yoriko Kishimoto**, dined on the patio with her family.



THE REGULARS



Harry W. Kellogg Jr., vice chairman of Silicon Valley Bank, comes in for breakfast up to four times a week, likes the oatmeal with a side order of fruit and always sits at table 11.



For breakfast, **Jean-Louis Gassée**, general partner at venture-capital firm Allegis Capital and a former Apple executive, sits at the counter facing the open kitchen.

He comes in about every week.



Sun Microsystems Chairman **Scott McNealy** comes in monthly and sits at table 15 or 16. He usually orders something casual, like pizza, and sips a beer.



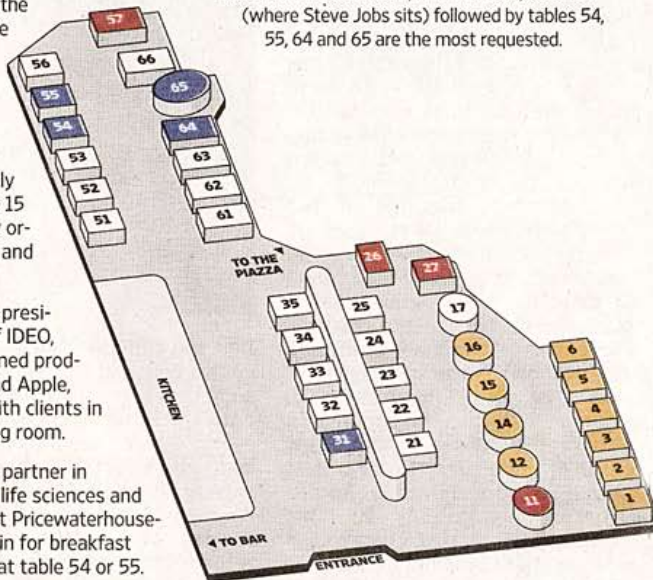
Tim Brown, the president and CEO of IDEO, which has designed products for Palm and Apple, hosts dinners with clients in the private dining room.



Tracy Lefteroff, partner in charge of global life sciences and venture capital at PricewaterhouseCoopers, comes in for breakfast weekly and sits at table 54 or 55.

THE POWER TABLES

Eleven is the most sought-after table because everyone entering the restaurant gets an eyeful of diners sitting there. It is also against the wall, so there's less foot traffic. Twenty-six and 27 are also popular because they're a little further away from the other tables and feature a ledge for stashing belongings. In general, women prefer to sit up front where there is more action, says Steve Boyden, the restaurant's managing partner. Men often take over the backroom, in which case, booth 57 (where Steve Jobs sits) followed by tables 54, 55, 64 and 65 are the most requested.



Il Fornaio, 520 Cowper St., Palo Alto, Calif.
650-853-3888; www.ilfornaio.com

FLOORPLAN KEY:
■ A ++ LIST ■ A+ LIST ■ A LIST