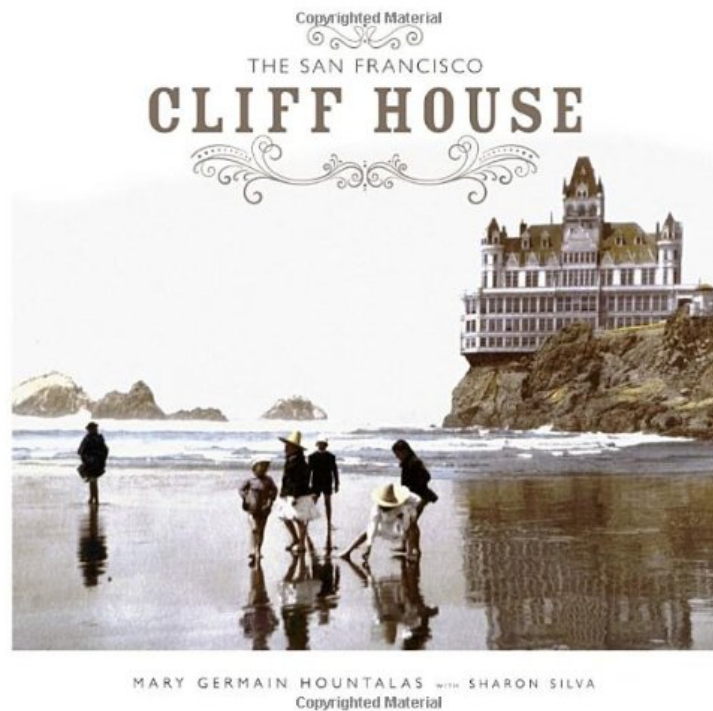




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The San Francisco Cliff House

Mary Germain Hountalas, Sharon Silva
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Mary Germain Hountalas, Sharon Silva : The San Francisco Cliff House before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The San Francisco Cliff House:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Time stands still for The Cliff House By Steve in Fla. Nice book, It brought a lot of memories from my childhood of visits to the Cliff House and Seal Rocks 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Recipes and history of the famous Cliff House! By weekend crafter Having grown up right next door to this historical monument, the Cliff House is near and dear to my heart. I love hearing stories from the past and this book does not disappoint. You get stories, beautiful pictures and recipes to boot. I made the Cliff House's popovers and it came out beautifully. A very well written book about a beloved San Francisco establishment! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Cliff House, San Francisco By T. Baine The definitive biography of the Cliff House, the author (and current Cliff House owner) follows the various incarnations of the Cliff House: its turn-of-the-century golden years, mid-century decline, and contemporary reemergence as an important historic and stylish tourist destination. Her research is comprehensive and her writing style enjoyable. She's also told the story with wonderful vintage photographs (many of which I had not seen before), and copies of vintage menus and recipes for Cliff House specialties--all beautifully presented. It's a great way to travel back in time and a testament to the value of historic preservation.

The shifting fortunes of San Francisco's legendary Cliff House, from raucous seaside roadhouse to fanciful Victorian palace to world-renowned urban destination, are celebrated in this comprehensive illustrated history. The story of San

Franciscos Cliff House begins in 1863 with a modest white clapboard building perched on a rocky promontory overlooking the Pacific. Little more than three decades later, following a devastating fire, visionary millionaire Adolph Sutro oversaw construction of an imposing Victorian edifice on the same site. His 1896 gingerbread palace drew everyone to its doorstep, from working-class families to the city's social elite to three U.S. presidents. That grand structure withstood the great earthquake of 1906, but burned to the ground a year later. Sutro's oldest daughter, Emma Sutro Merritt, immediately set to work on a new Cliff House, which opened in 1909. In the century since then, the Cliff House has survived a handful of destructive storms, two major earthquakes, three nearby fires, two closures, several facelifts, the swinging sixties, the not-so-swinging seventies, and the often grindingly slow decisions of government. Despite these and other challenges, today's Cliff House, now part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, is enjoying a renaissance following a two-year, multimillion-dollar restoration. This lavishly illustrated volume chronicles the fortunes of the legendary landmark and the people associated with its colorful story that parallels both the history and the irrepressible spirit of the city of San Francisco.

There are certain Bay Area landmarks that mean so much to so many. And one of the most special must surely be the Cliff House in San Francisco. A new work, *The San Francisco Cliff House* is a centennial celebration of this spectacular and historic edifice. I was spellbound with the many fascinating photographs. And I was nothing short of ecstatic when I saw several reproductions of early postcards I have in my personal collection. What sent me over the edge, however, was seeing recipes for restaurant favorites like Crab Louis. I just wanted to jump in my car and head to the shrine for an all-day picnic. *San Jose Mercury News* a lively text. *San Francisco Chronicle* From the Publisher* The shifting fortunes of San Francisco's legendary Cliff House, from gritty seaside roadhouse to Victorian pleasure palace to world-class urban destination, are celebrated in this one-of-a-kind illustrated history. * The Cliff House attracts more than 250,000 visitors each year. * Features signature recipes from past and present. * Publication to coincide with the 2009 centenary celebration of the current building and its recent \$20 million renovation. About the Author MARY GERMAIN HOUNTALAS has been operating the Cliff House in partnership with her husband, Dan Hountalas, since 1973. Over the years, she has become a serious historian of the building and its environs and a dedicated collector of countless artifacts associated with it, including vintage photographs, postcards, menus, and other memorabilia from every era. She resides in Sausalito, California. SHARON SILVA is a freelance editor and writer living in San Francisco, California.