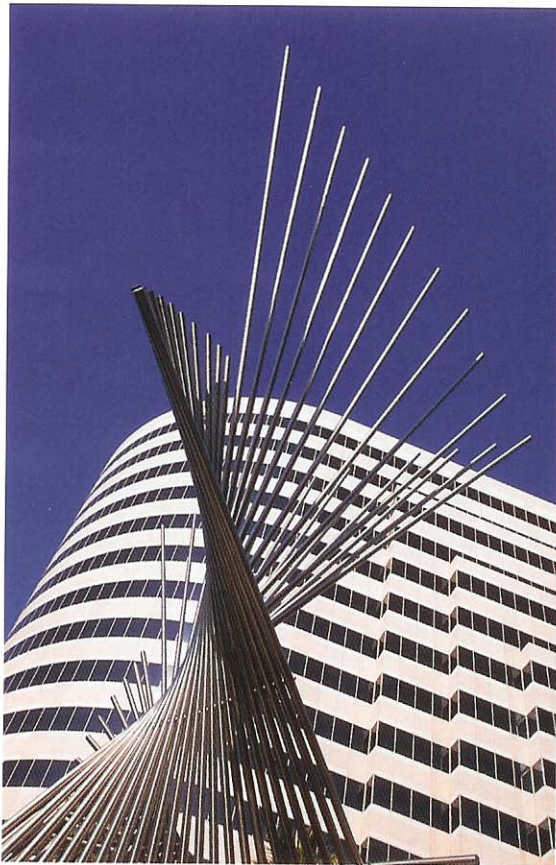


san jose supreme

>THIS TOWN IS NOW ABOUT CULTURE



SAN JOSE WAS ONCE THE geographical heart of cyberspace. But technological innovation aside, the area has now grown into a town that's loaded with cultural, sightseeing and recreational options.

ARTS? ALL SORTS!

Downtown San Jose, an eclectic blend of skyscrapers, turn-of-the-century charm and dramatic modern buildings, offers a growing array of artistic and cultural attractions. With its brilliant royal blue dome and mango facade, the **Tech Museum of Innovation** (408-294-8324) houses a sophisticated menu of hands-on exhibits, interactive displays and a majestic IMAX® Dome Theater. The **San Jose Museum of Art** (408-294-2787) is a graceful fusion of a historic building and bold contemporary architecture. The **Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose** (408-298-5437) is a kids' favorite. A concentration of performing arts is also found in downtown San Jose. The **Center for the Performing Arts**, designed by the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, is host to the **San Jose Silicon Valley Great Performances** (408-288-2828), which includes the ballet and symphony. Just a few blocks away is the **San Jose Repertory Theatre** (408-367-7255), whose striking building is new to the area.



The Almaden Street Tower (far left) is an architectural dream. *Mix Vigorously and Ingest* by Lari Pittman (above) is at the San Jose Museum of Art (Nov. 22–Feb. 15, 2004). The San Jose Repertory Theatre presents *Humpty Dumpty* (left).

Downtown San Jose, however, is not the only area with cultural offerings. Beyond its borders lies the exotic **Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum** (408-947-3600), built with 1920s metaphysical enthusiasm and boasting a celebrated collection of ancient Egyptian artifacts. Also well-regarded, the **San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles** (408-971-0323) features exhibitions of contemporary and historic quilts from around the world.

SIGHTS TO SEE

The **Winchester Mystery House** (408-247-2101), built by rifle heiress Sarah Winchester, is a 160-room Victorian mansion filled with oddities and distinctive architectural details, including a staircase that leads to nowhere. For thrills and chills of another kind, there's **Paramount's Great America** (408-988-1776), which offers more than 100 acres of rides, shows and attractions,

and **Raging Waters** (408-238-9900), featuring 23 acres of water slides, wave pools and attractions (open from May 17 to September 20).

SAVVY SHOPPING

From the high-tech glamour of San Jose and Santa Clara to the sophistication of Palo Alto, Saratoga and Los Gatos, San Jose offers a wealth of shopping experiences. The major shopping destinations include the **Eastridge Mall** (408-274-0360), **Westfield Shopping Town Oakridge** (408-578-2910) and **Westgate Mall** (408-379-9350). For those who are interested in a different kind of shopping experience in San Jose, there's the **San Jose Flea Market** (408-453-1110), which has been in operation since 1960. Saratoga and Los Gatos offer a collection of intimate restaurants, shops, art stores, antique traders and more. Milpitas is home to the **Great Mall of the Bay Area** (800-625-5229), which has outlet, off-price and specialty stores.

WELL WORTH THE TRIP

While exploring the outer limits of San Jose, day-trippers will discover charming communities full of diversions. Less than an hour's drive from downtown, the **Santa Cruz Boardwalk** (831-423-5590) — the oldest amusement park on the West Coast — offers thrills aplenty overlooking the beautiful main beach. Small wineries dot the hills stretching north and south of the town of Santa Cruz, and fueled by the presence of the youngest campus of the University of California, the dining scene here is vigorous and eclectic.

Although there is no denying that San Jose was once driven primarily by the computer industry as Silicon Valley, the area is now home to attractions that are anything but virtual.