

Louis'

Louis' Restaurant was officially opened by Louis and Helen Hontalas on a small piece of land rented from Adolph Sutro's nephew on February 14, 1937.

The small but famous café stands on the spot where a covered pedestrian walkway once connected the Sutro Depot to Sutro Baths. In the ensuing decades this unassuming restaurant has become a San Francisco icon.

In 1973 the National Park Service acquired the land on which Louis', the Cliff House, and the Sutro Baths ruins are located. Louis' Restaurant became a concessionaire of the National Park Service and a part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Louis' has been remodeled three times in the many years since its opening: once after a fire destroyed Sutro Depot and caused damage to the restaurant in 1948; a second time in 1974-1975 during which the kitchen, restroom and most of the dining room were relocated, creating the footprint of Louis' today; and again in 2011 after the restaurant signed a contract with the National Park Service allowing it to continue as a concessionaire for another 10 years.

Top: From left to right: Jim Hontalas, Rachel Lechuk, Helen and Louis Hontalas standing on the street in front of Louis' Restaurant, ca. 1947; *Center:* Helen, Louis, and Jim Hontalas at the counter, ca. 1946; *Bottom:* From left to right: Louis, John, Danny, and Michael Hontalas displaying their fresh catch on the street in front of the restaurant; Sutro's can be seen down the hill in the background, ca. 1950.

