

20-MINUTE TRAVELER

The Bay's Best Bites All in One Stop

San Francisco's restored **Ferry Building** gathers the best of Northern California's delectable cuisine under one roof. Begin your tour of the 65,000-square-foot market at the Cowgirl Creamery's Artisan Cheese Shop, where rosy-cheeked cheesemongers offer samples of *fromage blanc*. Cruise over to Stonehouse California Olive Oil, which owns groves in Oroville, and dip into Lisbon lemon and Persian lime varieties. Then slurp down a few oysters, delivered daily from a Tomales Bay farm, at Hog Island Oyster Company. Wash these down with a two-ounce taste of a Sonoma Chardonnay at the Ferry Plaza Wine Merchant. For a swiftly sweet ending, stop by Scharffen Berger for some Berkeley-made dark chocolate. —JENNICA PETERSON

Scallops at Hog Island Oyster Company.



TOAST OF THE TOWN

Hanoi's Top Coffee Shop

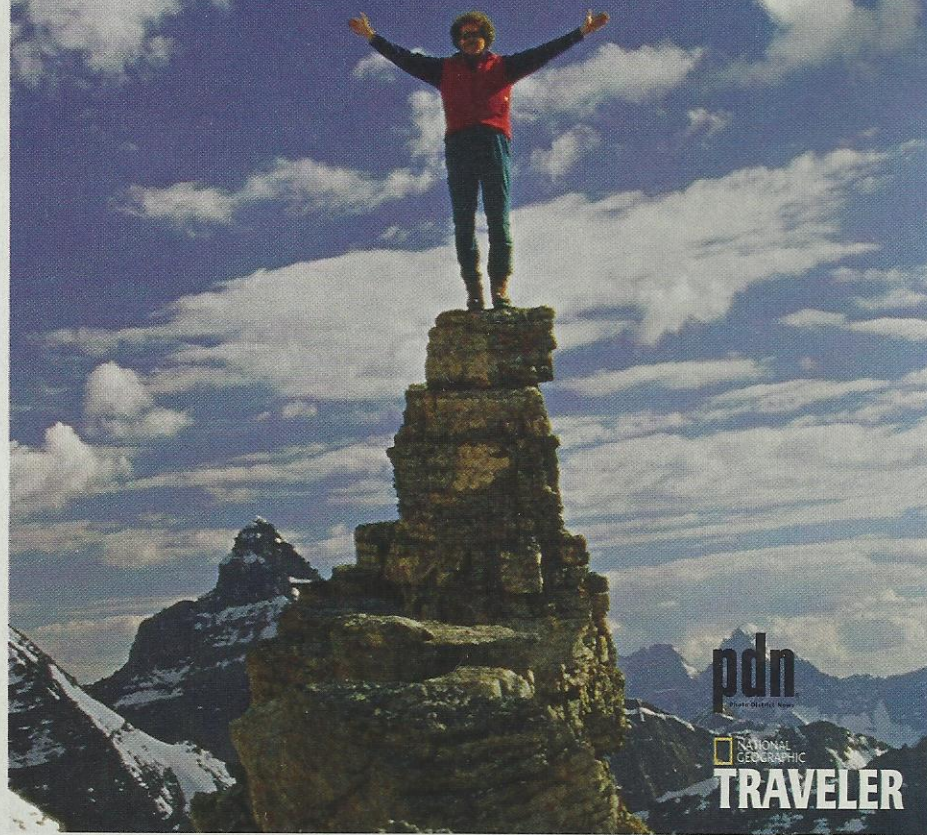
The French got the Vietnamese hooked on java, and locals have been caffeinated ever since. Who brews the best cup? Cognoscenti will point you to **Café Mai** (79 Le Van Huu St.), a pocket-size shop in the city's center. "Coffee is the fuel that feeds this frenetic city," says Hanoi celebrity restaurateur Bobby Chinn, "and Café Mai has been supplying generations."

Roasting since 1932, it's a family operation where jars of beans vie for space with the ancestral altar, porcelain deities, and photographs of the family home in the Central Highlands. For the adventurous gourmand, there is *ca phe chon* or "weasel coffee." It's actually a civet cat that feasts on coffee berries, which ferment in its belly, are excreted, collected, and roasted. The concept sounds disgusting; the finished product tastes delicious. —BRETT JONES



TOP: SWIFT/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX (UPPER); BRETT JONES (LOWER)

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ENTRY FEES

January 1, 2008, through March 15, 2008, are \$12 per entry for amateurs and \$35 per entry for professionals. For an extended deadline of March 31, 2008, an additional \$10 per entry will be charged.

PRIZES OF TRIPS OR EQUIPMENT WILL BE AWARDED FOR EACH CATEGORY

MORE INFORMATION, ENTRY FORMS, AND CONTEST RULES ARE AVAILABLE AT:
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To obtain Official Rules go to www.TheGreatOutdoorsPhotoContest.com. Employees of National Geographic Society, Photo District News and their affiliates, subsidiaries, and agents, and their immediate families or persons living in the same household of such individuals, are ineligible. Entry fee of \$12 for amateurs and \$35 for professionals applies to each entry received on or before 11:59 PM PST on March 15, 2008. For the extended deadline, an additional \$10 will be added to each entry received between 12:01 AM PST on March 16 until 11:59 PM PST on March 31, 2008. Only digital entries will be accepted. Dates of prize trips are subject to change at discretion of sponsor. Excludes by law residents of Arizona, New Jersey, and Vermont. CONTEST IS VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. See official rules for details.