Best known for the Golden Gate Bridge, cable cars, Chinatown, chilly summer fog, steep rolling hills and its eclectic mix of Victorian and modern architecture, San Francisco might be one of the most visited cities in the US but, for reasons unknown, its hotel scene has remained curiously ho-hum. In recent years though, a slate of local hoteliers have picked up the pace, adding to the city’s icons, and peppering the landscape with a much-needed dose of contemporary cool. Check into the ten best hotels the city has to offer.

The Alise takes its cues from its eclectic neighbourhood, where the City by the Bay meets show business. In a century-old building on Geary street, a short stride from Union Square, a grand black lacquered front door with opulent gilded scrollwork reveals a dazzling lobby dominated by a nine-screen video panel that rotates a curated selection of artistic scenes, while a shiny red baby grand player piano on the mezzanine level encourages guests to perform. Designed by Glenn Texeira and local firm Stanton Architecture, cheerful yellows and golden hues are balanced with chic grey tones, while marble flooring and smoky mirrors are glamorous additions in the lobby. Explore nearby sites from The Wharf to Golden Gate Bridge on one of the hotel’s custom cruiser
bikes, before heading back to the hotel, where beds come complete with individually folded duvets to ensure a wrestle-free sleep.

580 Geary St; 1.415 441 2700; www.thealise.com