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Richard Sterling, revised by Elgy Gillespie

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## The Stinking Rose ★★

ITALIAN

MODERATE

QUALITY ★★★½

VALUE ★★★

325 Columbus Avenue, North Beach; ☎ 415-781-7673;  
thestinkingrose.com

**Reservations** Recommended. **When to go** Anytime. **Entree range** \$18–\$40. **Payment** All major credit cards. **Service rating** ★★★. **Friendliness rating** ★★. **Parking** Street. **Bar** Full service. **Wine selection** Short but good. **Dress** Casual. **Disabled access** Yes. **Customers** Locals, tourists. **Hours** Daily, 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m.

**SETTING AND ATMOSPHERE** The main room is a mix of murals, a Rube Goldberg garlic factory, and toy trains. Garlic braids hang from the ceiling, photos of celebrities smile from the walls, and understatement is nowhere in sight. A second room is strewn with plain wooden tables and festooned with straw-wrapped Chianti *fiasci*. All is exuberant without being overpowering, rather like the aroma of cooked garlic.

**HOUSE SPECIALTIES** “Garlic seasoned with food.” The mostly Italian menu is comprised of well-made pastas and seafood laden with garlic. The garlic is usually cooked long and slow to mellow it, so you won’t step out of here a bane to vampires, but people will know where you’ve been. Weekly specials include meat loaf with garlic mashed potatoes and garlic-encrusted baby back ribs.

**OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS** Forty-clove chicken, pork chops with sweet garlic relish and apples, braised rabbit, vegetarian dishes. Specially marked items can be made without the pungent lily on request.

**SUMMARY AND COMMENTS** One-and-a-half tons of garlic and 12,000 mints a month! This is a fun place, one that takes itself not too seriously but not too lightly either. It’s dedicated to gustatory enjoyment. The bar is a popular place to meet. At AT&T Park, you can buy the Stinking Rose’s 40-clove chicken sandwich.