

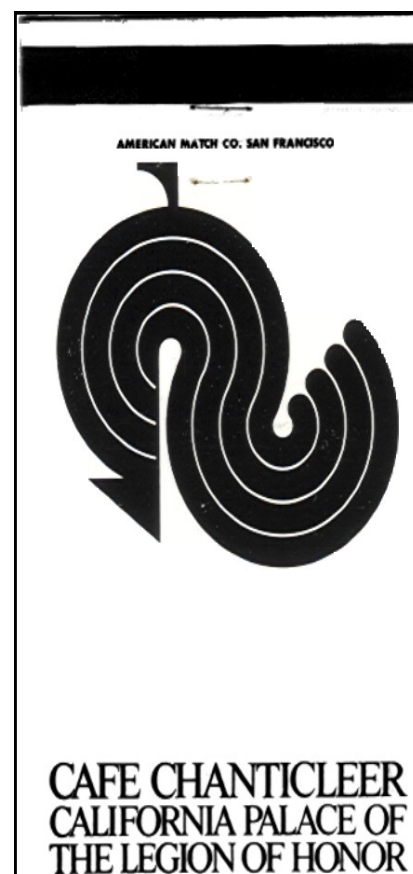
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# San Francisco's Legion of Honor

by  
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The Legion of Honor, San Francisco's most beautiful museum, displays an impressive collection of 4,000 years of ancient and European art in an unforgettable setting overlooking the Golden Gate Bridge.

Built to commemorate Californian soldiers who died in World War I, the Legion of Honor is a beautiful Beaux-arts building located in San Francisco's Lincoln Park. Overlooking the Pacific Ocean, Golden Gate Bridge and all of San Francisco, the Legion is most noted for its breathtaking setting. Its collections include Rodin's *Thinker*, which sits in the museum's Court of Honor, European decorative arts and paintings, Ancient art, and one of the largest collections of prints and drawings in the country.



The Legion of Honor has long been one of San Francisco's most sought-after venues for corporate entertaining and special events, weddings, and private parties. Guests can enjoy the grandeur of the Legion's neoclassical architecture, and the museum's spectacular setting provides unforgettable views of the City and the Golden Gate.

Perhaps Rodin's best known monumental work, the *Thinker* dominates the Legion's outdoor Court of Honor, and is one of the earliest acquisitions of the more than seventy Rodin sculptures that were purchased and donated to the museum.

- The Legion of Honor is a three-quarter-scale adaptation of the 18th-century Palais de la Légion d'Honneur in Paris.
- Constructed on a remote site known as Land's End, the Legion of Honor was completed in 1924, and on Armistice Day of that year, its doors opened to the public.
- The museum is dedicated to the 3,600 California men who lost their lives on the battlefields of France during World War I.
- Between March 1992 and 11 November 1995—its 71st anniversary—the Legion underwent a major renovation. The renovation included seismic strengthening, building systems upgrade, restoration of historic architectural features, and underground expansion that added 35,000 square feet.

*[<http://www.thinker.org/legion/>]*

As a long-time resident of Northern California, I've been to the Legion of Honor many times over the years. Not only does it live up to its billing, but it's one of those wonderful sites that has something different to offer the visitor on each sojourn.