

Taylor's Refresher

1 Ferry Building
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 www.taylorsrefresher.com



While a true-blue American burgers-and-fries joint within a fancy-pants food haven may seem novel, the concept has been done before -- by the same restaurant. The original Taylor's is in St. Helena, a tiny Napa Valley town where the fryers have been going since 1949. In 1999, new proprietors added a few gourmet touches (including local wine), and the joint snagged press as a great antidote to fussy, fancy food. The concept doesn't translate perfectly to the Ferry Building, which is more of a pedestrian affair, but that doesn't mean it's not a well-appreciated addition to the neighborhood (if the lines snaking out the door at lunchtime are any testament). The place finds a formula for success in a fun mix of down-home (American cheese, corn dogs, cafeteria-yellow sponge buns, reasonable prices) and high-end (all-natural beef, ice cream-thick milkshakes, daily homemade soup and specials like duck confit tacos). If it's warm out, skip the cutesy '50s decor inside and head to the patio to people-watch and enjoy a drink.

