



Serving up Community

Amidst the hustle of living, working and playing at the epicenter of Silicon Valley, Penelope's Coffee and Tea offers its patrons a place to slow down, to be a part of a community, and remember that life is at its best when shared.

With roots from Crete, the Fanourgiakis Family, long standing Foster City residents, founders and co-owners of Penelope's Coffee & Tea (and Sandwich Monkey) know coffee shops and cafes are a part of daily life for their friends, family and neighbors. The "kafes" were the place to gather and share the experiences of the day. When they thought of building a business in Foster City, they looked only as far as their memories of a time where there was a genuine sense of community and a feeling of always being welcome to share a story with an old (or new) friend over a bite and a cup of coffee.

Since their opening in 2015, Penelope's has done just that. Their pay it forward ethos is evident as their connection to community is palpable. Born and raised in Foster City, the Owners (Nick, John, Mike and George) Fanourgiakis like to give back to their community. From offering free delivery service to any catering order placed from a Foster City based organization through to donating their time and services to various causes and organizations throughout San Mateo County and the Bay Area.

Penelope's Coffee & Tea has also steadily grown and expanded its service offerings since opening; now providing on-site and off-site food and beverage service management to corporations, universities, and specialty venues.

Coffee continues to fuel the business – much as it helps power industry and commerce in communities around the Bay. Between the restaurant and catering operation Penelope’s pours over 1 million cups of coffee every year.



So whether you’re stopping in to one of your favorite local community grocers, taking friends, family and out of town guests out on the bay with Hornblower Cruises, or needing to fuel your top talent to get through their days, just pour a cup of Penelope’s Coffee and Tea and feel the traditions, customs and values of their family brought to modern times, with respect for the past, an appetite for innovation and a thirst for the future.



When Foster City based Gilead Sciences was considering the expansion of their on-site café offerings, they looked to vendors such as Starbucks, Peet’s, Philz, Blue Bottle and others. They started hearing more and more about a local favorite from their community partners and employees living in and around campus.

“We decided to look into Penelope’s more seriously and beyond the variety of offerings, taste and quality of their coffees and teas, we saw a dedication to quality and service in the family ownership that really resonated with us”, said Al De Groot, Executive Director of Corporate Engineering & Facilities at Gilead Sciences. “In the end, the decision to partner with Penelope’s was an easy one, and one that we still are enjoying the benefits of today with the two full service cafes we now have on campus.”

Cliff Berry, Vice President Americas Real Estate & Facilities at VISA, recalls seeing the Penelope’s iconic blue cup making its way onto its campus from employees visiting the flagship location at The Plaza. Visa’s interest in championing local business was high, but so too were concerns that an independent could keep up with the demands of service and scale imposed by a big company. Visa, like Gilead, took the chance. “We couldn’t be happier with the results,” said Berry. “We offer other brands of coffee at our campus, but Penelope’s is by far the employee favorite.”

To learn more about Penelope’s services visit penelopescoffee.com

