

Nearly 20 percent of new Obamacare waivers are gourmet restaurants, nightclubs, fancy hotels in Nancy Pelosi's district

By [Matthew Boyle](#) - The Daily Caller 12:07 AM 05/17/2011

ADVERTISEMENT

Of the 204 new Obamacare waivers President Barack Obama's administration approved in April, 38 are for fancy eateries, hip nightclubs and decadent hotels in House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi's Northern California district.

That's in addition to the 27 new waivers for health care or drug companies and the 31 new union waivers Obama's Department of Health and Human Services approved.

Pelosi's district secured almost 20 percent of the latest issuance of waivers nationwide, and the companies that won them didn't have much in common with companies throughout the rest of the country that have received Obamacare waivers.

Other common waiver recipients were labor union chapters, large corporations, financial firms and local governments. But Pelosi's district's waivers are the first major examples of luxurious, gourmet restaurants and hotels getting a year-long pass from Obamacare.

For instance, Boboquivari's restaurant in Pelosi's district in San Francisco got a waiver from Obamacare. Boboquivari's advertises \$59 porterhouse steaks, \$39 filet mignons and \$35 crab dinners.

Then, there's Café des Amis, which describes its eating experience as "a timeless Parisian style brasserie" which is "located on one of San Francisco's premier shopping and strolling boulevards, Union Street," according to the restaurant's Web site.

"Bacchus Management Group, in partnership with Perry Butler, is bringing you that same warm, inviting feeling, with a distinctive San Francisco spin," the Web site reads. Somehow, though, the San Francisco upper class eatery earned itself a waiver from Obamacare because it apparently cost them too much to meet the law's first year requirements.

The reason the Obama administration says it has given out waivers is to exempt certain companies or policyholders from "annual limit requirements." The applications for the waivers are "reviewed on a case by case basis by department officials who look at a series of factors including whether or not a premium increase is large or if a significant number of enrollees would lose access to their current plan because the coverage would not be offered in the absence of a waiver." The waivers don't allow a company to permanently refrain from implementing Obamacare's stipulations, but companies can reapply for waivers annually through 2014.

Café Mason, a diner near San Francisco's Union Square, got a waiver too. When The Daily Caller asked the manager about the waiver and how the president's new sweeping federal health care law was affecting his restaurant, he hung up the phone. The Franciscan Crab restaurant on Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco got

a waiver. Its menu features entrees ranging from about \$15 to \$60. The Franciscan's general manager didn't return TheDC's requests for comment.

Four-star hotel Campton Place got one too, as did Hotel Nikko San Francisco, which describes itself as "four-diamond luxury in the heart of the city." Tru Spa, which Allure Magazine rated the "best day spa in San Francisco," received an Obamacare waiver as well.

Before hanging up on TheDC, Tru Spa's owner said new government health care regulations, both the federal-level Obamacare and new local laws in Northern California, have "devastated" the business. "It's been bad for us," he said, without divulging his name, referring to the new health care restrictions.

But, the spa owner wouldn't talk about it or the reason his company sought a waiver. He hung up after saying, "I've got clients on the other line, good-bye."

San Francisco Honda, which has two of its three locations in Pelosi's district, and San Francisco's Royal Motors Group both got waivers too. Neither called TheDC back.

Blue & Gold Fleet, which describes itself as "the Bay Area's premier provider of Bay Cruise, Ferry Service and Motorcoach Tours," got an Obamacare waiver approved in April. The tour service company didn't return TheDC's requests for comment.

Nightclub Infusion Lounge got an Obamacare waiver approved in April too. Infusion Lounge calls itself a "sophisticated nightlife destination" with "Asian inspired sub-rosa lounge, fashioned by Hong Kong's hottest designer, Kinney Chan," which makes for a "true ultra lounge catering to both dancing hipsters and young professionals looking to relax in style." Infusion Lounge's owners didn't return TheDC's requests for comment either.

Simco Restaurants and several other affiliated chains based in the area got waivers for their businesses as well. For example, Gordon Yoshida, the manager of memorabilia store Only in San Francisco, told TheDC that Sandra Fletcher of Simco walked him through the process of getting an Obamacare waiver. Fletcher did not return TheDC's requests for comment.

Pelosi's office did not respond to TheDC's requests for comment either.

Recommend

8622 recommendations. [Sign Up](#) to see what your friends recommend.

Article printed from The Daily Caller: <http://dailycaller.com>

URL to article: <http://dailycaller.com/2011/05/17/nearly-20-percent-of-new-obamacare-waivers-are-gourmet-restaurants-nightclubs-fancy-hotels-in-nancy-pelosi%e2%80%99s-district/>

Copyright © 2009 Daily Caller. All rights reserved.