

## **Independent Alliance Guide to the Bay Area**

San Jose and San Francisco as cities have always had amicable ties and communication with each other. Pathways from one Mission to the other gave way to a stagecoach route, a freeway, and a Rail line that still stands today. Santa Clara, being a floodplain and a shallow part of the bay, cannot dock large seafaring vessels and has relied a great deal on imports from San Francisco and Oakland in as the Gold Rush changed the local landscape.

The Giovanni have had a good relationship with the Camarilla Princes who have come and gone in San Francisco since shortly before Gold Rush. North Beach was part of a business partnership with a more pragmatic, less traditional Prince of the Camarilla. There was something about the newness and charm of California that seems to spark people changing the way they do things to enhance or defy traditions. San Francisco is no different.

The Followers of Set came into prominence during the Hippie revolution, though some were around before that time. The idea of free love, drugs, and “sticking it to the man” was flavored and driven by these flamboyant kindred. Communal housing and cult-like religions were also earmarks of the clan “hiding in plain sight”.

### **Currently Small in Numbers:**

Officially, the IA will have two Emissaries: 1 Follower of Set, 1 Giovanni.

However, like a small business, just because you lack personnel, it does not mean you don't have people who unofficially assume the tasks of positions the Guardian of Sacred Spaces (as there are significant places locally the IA has holdings of) or a Virago (purely for the administrative record keeping aspect). There is not a large enough population for a Doyen currently, so whoever does these tasks will most likely not be recognized in any official capacity outside the Bay Area.

### **IA Locally Known History:**

1797- San Jose Mission Founded. Within this Mission is one of the oldest establishments of Hunters in the area. Although today, they are societally dismissed as extreme religious fanatics, they were the most successful in finding intel and specifically targeting the Sabbat Followers of Set as both Vampires and heretics.

1884- Sarah Winchester purchases house in Santa Clara Valley and builds into it, adding more and more elaborate wings and stories. In her grief of losing her husband and child, she took on this project to appease the spirits of those who perished due to the Winchester Rifle. It is rumored that the Medium who told Sarah Winchester to partake of this endeavor was a Giovanni from Boston.

1906- A large earthquake ravages San Francisco. Property damage and deaths reach into Santa Clara County. The Winchester Mansion is damaged and goes from being seven stories to three in the aftermath. North Beach is reconstructed as an Italian neighborhood.

1912- All existing cemeteries within San Francisco are evicted and set to move to a small San Mateo County town known as Colma. The Prince of San Francisco made arrangements with the Giovanni to handle the transport of the caskets and bodies out of the city.

1927- H. Spencer Lewis displays the Egyptian artifacts of the Rosicrucian Order (AMORC) as a museum open to the public. He had glass cases built for the artifacts on the second floor of AMORC's Administration building. The Rosicrucian Order uses the resulting donations of artifacts and funds to send research teams to explore tombs and temples in Egypt.

1943- IBM establishes its West Coast Headquarters in San Jose. This marks the seeds of turning the area into what will be known as "Silicon Valley". It is now believed that today's computer-hacking Hunter Cells may have been developed through the technology boom that IBM started, if not directly influenced by the corporation itself.

1944- Anarchs take San Jose. The Followers of Set do business with the Anarchs, profiteering from the tensions between the Anarchs and the Tower. The Giovanni keep their land holdings but is cautious about making long-term relationships or deals with this sect.

1966- The Egyptian collection displayed by H. Spencer Lewis grows large enough to outgrow the facilities encasing it. The new Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum is opened. Today the Museum, with over 4,000 artifacts, houses the largest collection of authentic ancient Egyptian artifacts on display in Western North America. Followers of Set oversaw the design and construction and have access to hidden/unknown floors within this building.

1974- San Francisco is reclaimed by the Camarilla. This brings in a period of rapid infrastructure growth with the newly made BART train system. The Transamerica building is completed, going from a controversial silhouette in the city's skyline to an iconic tourist draw.

1980- The Sabbat take Colma, the Giovanni strategically implode some of the catacombs to deter looking of older bodies, items, books, and relics.

2005- The "First Wave" of Hunters strike the Sabbat hardest, weakening their presence in San Mateo County. Most of Giovanni move in to reclaim their cemeteries while staying just under the radar of the local Hunter Cells. An unlucky few were exterminated in their North Beach havens, driving the rest to leave San Francisco for San Jose for safety. Followers of Set take heavy losses of their cultists and ghouls as well as eight kindred.

2008- The "Second Wave": The Hunters implement a strategy that results in the loss of partial if not all resources within San Francisco and the surrounding areas. Access to bank accounts is lost and it becomes clear that there must be a mole within the ranks of the Camarilla. The IA

think their ranks of mortal ghouls, herds, and contacts as a precaution. A Follower of Set is killed with the San Francisco City limits which starts a fierce tension between the Prince of San Francisco and the Setite population. The matter is set aside in favor of prioritizing the Hunter issue. Two Followers of Set take retaliatory action and destroy a warehouse containing a data center. It is believed that this act destroyed some of the records hunters had of local kindred.

2013- The "Third Wave" The Giovanni invest their efforts into Santa Clara County's law enforcement branches and are able to sway their priority to crack down on Hunter Cells under gang domestic terrorism laws. Due an error in information, Hunters take out several innocents, harming their perception from law enforcement and political entities in San Francisco. The religious wing of Hunters in Mission San Jose start to contain their efforts either because of public perception or because of a leadership shift within.