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36 Hours in Zurich

3) CROSSOVER FARE

Step out of the gilded cocoon of the Altstadt and into Kreis 4, where the [Helvetia](#) (Stauffacherquai 1; 41-44-297-99-99; www.hotel-helvetia.ch), a recently renovated restaurant and boutique hotel just over the Sihl River, divides picture-postcard Zurich and the grittier city you'll wish you had more time to explore. In the 1930s, the Helvetia was a meeting place for communists and other agitators. Today, it draws an eclectic mix of hipsters, yuppies and the occasional guy who looks as if he got lost on the way to a leather bar. The kitchen serves modern Swiss cuisine with a seasonal flair (the pot-au-feu with veal was terrific). After dinner, have a nightcap at the dark-wood-paneled bar downstairs or on the terrace overlooking the river. Reservations recommended. Dinner for two, with wine, about 140 francs, or about \$130 at 1.08 francs to the dollar.

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