

NIGHT+DAY DC

Ins and Outs

Noteworthy Additions, Changes, and Closures
from publication date through December 31, 2008

Key to Night+Day Symbols

Restaurants

Singles-friendly

- Communal table
- Food served at bar

(G) Gourmet destination

Nightlife

Includes bars, clubs, and entertainment

- Cover or ticket charge
- (otherwise, entry is free)*

Restaurants + Nightlife

Prime-time noise levels

- Quiet
- A buzz, but still conversational
- Loud

Venues followed by an asterisk (*) are those we recommend as both a restaurant and a destination bar.

Key to Pricing

Hotels

Best deluxe room

- \$ \$100–\$199
- \$\$ \$200–\$299
- \$\$\$ \$300–\$399
- \$\$\$\$ \$400 and up

Restaurants

Main course

- \$- less than \$10
- \$ \$10–\$19
- \$\$ \$20–\$29
- \$\$\$ \$30–\$39
- \$\$\$\$ \$40 and up

Attractions

Entry or service

- \$- less than \$10
- \$ \$10–\$19
- \$\$ \$20–\$29
- \$\$\$ \$30–\$39
- \$\$\$\$ \$40 and up

The Night+Day promise

Night+Day writers and editors use the same high standards in selecting and researching venues to be included in our Ins and Outs updates as we do for our books. Our local correspondents determine which new hot spots are the real deal and which are simply hype—just as you'd expect from Night+Day—to provide the kind of reliable information you need to make the best possible choices.

NightandDayGuides.com

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The critics are talking about Night+Day's Cool Cities series ...

“Extraordinary detail, itineraries organized by theme, and a unique up-to-the-minute black book of what’s hot provides readers with the ultimate guide.” —**Forbes.com**

“Opening chapters set the spirited tone ... a host of food-focused entries accommodate all tastes.” —**Travel + Leisure**

“Focus[es] their information to attract vacationers who don’t want cookie-cutter itineraries.” —**Wall Street Journal**

“Well-written, cleverly organized ... remarkably comprehensive.”
—**Passport Magazine**

“The most enjoyable feature may be the various three-day itineraries ... I don’t know that I’d want a manicure and a martini at the Beauty Bar around 10pm on a Friday night, but I’m delighted to know it’s possible.” —**New York Times**

“Perfect for the business person or jet-setter who’s in town for a few days and has little time to research a visit. But area residents can pluck a few gems from its pages, too.” —**Sacramento Bee**

“Numerous three-day itineraries to mix and match to your heart’s delight.” —**Chicago Tribune**

“Your one-stop guide to shopping, nightlife, restaurants, hotels and other attractions in the city.” —**DC Style Magazine**

But it’s your opinion that counts.

Let us know what you think at NightandDayGuides.com

Changes (Please make a note in your Night+Day guide.)

Restaurants

Johnny's Half Shell (p. 95) has relocated to: 400 N. Capitol St. NW, 202-737-0400.

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Chic DC Restaurants

Adour • White House • French (G)

What do former Senator Tom Daschle, comedian Chevy Chase, and celebrity chef Mario Batali have in common? They were all among the first to dine at Adour, the Alain Ducasse restaurant that opened in September 2008. The pre-opening buzz was intense; happily, the post-opening news is all good. From the gougère beginning to the tray of raspberry-pin and chocolate macaroons at dinner’s end, the meal is an exquisite pleasure. Well-spaced tables and shimmering silver and gold décor make Adour a romantic choice for a sexy tête-à-tête. *Mon 6:30am–2pm, Tue–Thu 6:30am–10pm, Fri 6:30am–10:30pm, Sat 7am–10:30pm, Sun 7am–noon.* \$\$\$ [St. Regis Hotel Washington, 923 16th St. NW \(K St.\), 202-509-8000, adour-washingtondc.com](#)

BLT Steak • White House • Steak House

It’s as if a band of 20-somethings had gotten together and demanded a steak house for its own generation, complete with syncopated soundtrack, fancy-pants drinks (try the Kentucky Blush), grown-up portions of brand-name beef (Kobe, anyone?), kid-pleasing popovers in the bread basket, loungy furniture, and, for those who’ve been very, very good, some extraspecial desserts, like the peanut butter and milk chocolate mousse. That about describes BLT Steak, where the B stands for Bistro, though it might well stand for Big, and the LT stands for Laurent Tourondel, the chef and chief instigator of all this fun. DC’s BLT is only months old but is already attracting the city’s well-heeled pleasure-seekers. Black-and-white photos of Jackie Kennedy and Rosa Parks give a nod to earlier eras, but those images are in the restrooms; the real scene is back in the noisy

Shoshanna, Eva Franco, and by Cermanova herself, whose Ela Ela custom-couture line offers utterly feminine versions of women’s wear, from evening gowns to tailored suits. *Mon–Fri 10am–8pm, Sat 11am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm.* 1350 Connecticut Ave. NW (Dupont Circle), 202-223-6644, [greenandbluestyle.com](#)

Madame Tussauds • Penn Quarter • Wax Museum

In many a hipster’s trip to DC, there can come a point when the slate of activities lined up for the day suddenly seems to require too much damn energy and/or it’s too early to hit the bars. Now would be a good time to visit Madame Tussauds. Let your guard down and soak up the ticky-tacky fun of shaking the hand of George Washington, hugging George Clooney, dancing with Beyoncé, or pretending to smoke weed with former Mayor Barry. And if you emerge, four galleries and 50 figures later, with a silly grin on your face, who the hell cares? *Daily 10am–6pm.* \$\$ 1025 F St. NW (10th St.), 202-942-7300, [madametussaudsdc.com](#)

Nationals Park • Capitol Hill • Stadium

It’s a good time to be a baseball fan in the nation’s capital. Three years ago, Washingtonians enthusiastically welcomed the return of a hometown baseball team after doing without for 37 years. And now that team, the Washington Nationals, has a brand new stadium, Nationals Ballpark. Completed in time for opening day, March 30, 2008, the ballpark’s architecture mimics the federal look of the city, with patriotic touches, like red and blue seating. Views from on high look to the Anacostia River, the Capitol, and the Washington Monument. Accessible by Metro, the ballpark, alas, lies in a neighborhood still in need of development. \$\$ 1500 S. Capitol St. SE (N St. SE), 202-675-6287, [washington.nationals.mlb.com](#)

US Capitol Visitor Center • Capitol Hill • Tour Center/Site

Consider the facts: Six years in the making, 580,000 square feet (on three levels) in size, located 70 feet below the Capitol, accommodating thousands overall, with 26 restrooms and a dining-room capacity of 530 people. Golly. As of December 2008, the center is the gathering place for Capitol tours. Before you queue up, make sure you see the Capitol dome, on view through skylights in the center’s Emancipation Hall, and the 13-minute orientation film that explores the history of Congress and the Capitol. *Hours TBA.* \$\$\$ E. Capitol St. NE/NW (First St.), 202-225-6827, [aoc.gov](#)

1905 Bistro • U Street Corridor • French-American

Open until the wee hours, 1905 Bistro fancies itself a late-night place as well as a restaurant, and though the bistro does host live jazz Thursday nights, it should relax and embrace its identity as simply a cozy restaurant serving French and American bistro fare, from Angus burgers and steak fries to white bean velouté and croques-monsieurs. 1905 is situated on the second floor of a row house, and its décor is a charming mishmash of exposed brick walls, a copper-topped bar, old trunks, locker room benches, and Victorian chandeliers. It's the perfect couple's spot, though perhaps the tables are just a tad too close together. *Sun–Thu 5:30pm–2am, Fri–Sat 5:30pm–3am.* \$ ☒ ☒ 1905 Ninth St. NW (T St. NW), 202-332-1905, 1905dc.com

Classic DC Nightlife

The Gibson • U Street Corridor • Bar/Lounge

Hidden behind a nondescript red door on 14th Street is this cool speakeasy, where you may have to ring the doorbell to enter. Situated right next door to the always-crowded Marvin, and sharing the same owners, The Gibson eschews lines and all the nasty attitudes that go with them. This is a bar-bar, serious about its cocktails, from the old-timer concoction that gives the place its name to the intriguing creation known as the Salad Days Sour. Atmosphere is paramount, too: intimate, dimly lit, with a policy of no standing at the bar. Maximum capacity is 48, and once that max is reached, new arrivals must traipse elsewhere. The key is to book a spot, since the bar does accept reservations for half its seats. *Wed–Thu 6pm–1am, Fri–Sat 6pm–2am, Sun 6pm–1am.* ☒ 2009 14th St. NW (U St. NW), 202-232-2156

Gin & Tonic Tavern • Upper Northwest • Bar

If the “less is more” approach speaks to you, say hello to Gin & Tonic. The new tavern is one long, brick-walled room featuring two bars, a DJ booth, a smattering of tables and chairs, and, well, that's about it. Oh, and one other thing: lots and lots of people. It's mostly a preppy crowd, and though gin and tonics are always a possibility, most are imbibing beer. No denying it, though, this is a hearty party scene, with a whole lot of dancing going on. *Mon–Thu 5pm–2am, Fri 5pm–3am, Sat 11:30am–3am, Sun 11:30am–2pm.* ☒ 2408 Wisconsin Ave. NW (Calvert St.), 202-333-3114, ginandtonictavern.com

Classic DC Attractions

Green and Blue • Dupont Circle • Boutique

After spending some time in DC, Czech natives Daniela Cermanova and Michaela Schwartz couldn't help but notice that the city was full of powerful women but lacked the right stores to dress them. We're talking fashion-forward but functional women's clothing. Enter Green and Blue. The Dupont Circle boutique, with its vibrant blue and green décor, stocks designs by Cynthia Rowley,

dining room, where everyone is way too busy living for today to think about the past. *Mon–Thu 11:30am–2:30pm and 5:30–11pm, Fri–Sat 11:30am–2:30pm and 5:30–11:30pm.* \$\$\$ ☒ ☒ 1625 I St. NW (16th St.), 202-689-8999, bltrestaurants.com

Brasserie Beck* • Downtown • Belgian-French

Of all the new restaurants to open in 2007, Beck's is the most rocking. Renowned for his elegant Marcel's, chef Robert Wiedmaier lets his hair down, but not his standards, at this grand, European-style brasserie, where Washingtonians wander in and out all day, to toss back a Bavik and munch on mussels, frites, or beef carbonade. Seating is at various bars and clusters of tables, but the hands-down best place is at the chef's table directly in front of the display kitchen, in full view of the entertaining Wiedmaier. A sommelier, a beer specialist, and a barista keep the good times flowing. The vibe is contagious and the word is out: sommeliers and chefs from other hot spots often pop in for their own R&R. *Mon–Thu 11:30am–11pm, Fri–Sat 5–11:30pm.* \$\$ ☒ ☒ 1101 K St. NW (11th St.), 202-408-1717, beckdc.com

Central • Penn Quarter • American-French Bistro


How popular is Central? Put it this way: Don't even bother trying to call, as it's often impossible to get through. The man behind Central is internationally known chef Michel Richard, whose restaurant Citronelle is Washington's very best. Central is Richard's love letter to America, presenting a very affordable menu of both French and American favorites, served in a cheery and casual bistro setting, complete with a television (*mon Dieu!*) mounted in the corner of the adjoining on-view bar. Diners are all ages and have all agendas, but expect to see lots of black leather jackets on men, knee-high boots over jeans on women. Just as at Citronelle, everyone in sight is having a really good time, dining on Richard's versions of crab cakes, fried chicken, French fries, gougères, even a banana split. *Mon–Fri 11:45am–2:30pm, Sat 5:30–11pm.* \$\$ ☒ ☒ 1001 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (10th St.), 202-626-0015, centralmichelrichard.com

Co Co. Sala* • Penn Quarter • Cafe/Lounge


Even the menu goes by a provocative name, “Bites and Sips,” at this super-sexy chocolate-themed cafe and lounge. *Boutique Mon–Fri 7am–5pm. Restaurant: Mon–Wed 5–9:30pm, Thu 5–10pm, Fri–Sat 5–11:30pm, Sun 11am–3pm. Bar: Mon–Thu 5pm–1:30am, Fri–Sat 5pm–2:30am.* \$\$\$ ☒ ☒ 929 F St. NW (Ninth St. NW), 202-347-4265, cocosala.com

D'Acqua • Penn Quarter • Italian


D'Acqua less than a year old, but its chef partners, Francesco Ricchi and Enzo Febbraro, are well-known, well-loved veterans of various DC Italian restaurants. This one is all about fresh seafood, obvious not just from the restaurant's name (it means “from the water”), but from a glimpse of a lusty spread of that day's offerings, laid out on a bed of crushed ice, at the end of the sweeping bar. You can ask to have the fish prepared any way you like, whether grilled or baked in salt; the waiter fillets the fish for you as you watch. D'Acqua's glass-fronted room offers primo downtown watching, especially during the day. Turn away from the windows and you'll find the bar awash in well-tailored men and women slyly bantering during the week, and in leather jackets and designer jeans, and boisterous spirits, on weekends. And file this away: The restaurant stays open

weekdays from lunch through dinner, so if your appetite demands attention at an odd hour, step inside. *Mon–Fri 11:30am–11pm, Sat–Sun 5–11pm.* \$\$\$  [801 Pennsylvania Ave. NW \(8th St. NW\), 202-783-7717, dacquadc.com](#)

Founding Farmers Restaurant • Foggy Bottom • American

Just in time for the presidential election and inauguration comes this patriotic newcomer that pays tribute to American comfort food. But this is not your founding fathers' restaurant. A collective of farmers backs this playfully elegant "green" eatery, whose takes on biscuits and chicken pot pie give diners many reasons to salute the flag. Eco-friendly practices mean the use of sustainably farmed seasonal ingredients, organic vodkas, and family-distilled bourbons. Décor is contemporary farmhouse—lots of reclaimed stone and wood, punctuated with colorful displays of jarred vegetables. *Mon–Wed 8am–10pm, Thu–Fri 8am–midnight, Sat 4pm–midnight, Sun noon–9pm.* \$\$\$  [1924 Pennsylvania Ave. NW \(20th St. NW\), 202-822-8783, wearefoundingsfarmers.com](#)

Hook • Georgetown • Seafood

First come photos plastered in all the DC rags of the attractive 20-something chefs goofing in the kitchen; next, a Bush twin is spotted dining here; finally, food critics give it an emphatic nod: A hot new restaurant is born. Both hot and forward-thinking, actually, since Hook is all about eco-friendly dining, from the fish pulled from Bahamian waters that very morning, to the menus printed on recycled paper. In this shotgun, virgin-white dining room extending back from Georgetown's busiest street, sit at the communal table across from the bar for biggest buzz. Order the crudos (marinated raw fish) and end with pastry chef Heather Chittum's darling madeleines. *Mon–Tue 5–10pm, Wed–Thu 11:30am–2:30pm and 5–11pm, Fri 11:30am–2:30pm and 5pm–midnight, Sat 10:30am–2:30pm and 5pm–midnight, Sun 10:30am–2:30pm and 5–10pm.* \$\$\$  [3241 M St. NW \(Wisconsin Ave.\), 202-625-4488, hookdc.com](#)

Hudson • West End • New American

Does comfortable equal cool? The West End's Hudson is betting the answer is "yes," as it debuts its comfort zone of a restaurant, inviting all comers to make themselves at home upon retro-chic, upholstered banquettes (and chaises longues on the patio in spring and summer), arrive at nearly any hour, and dress as they like. DJs on the weekends spin lounge music for chilling, not dancing. And then there's the menu, featuring buttermilk pancakes for brunch, stuffed burgers for lunch, linguini bolognese for dinner, and Manhattans all the live-long day. Hudson's mantra? "Anything goes." DC's gadabouts are gladly putting that to the test. *Mon–Fri 7:30am–2am, Sat 10:30am–3am, Sun 10:30am–midnight.* \$\$\$  [2030 M St. NW \(21st St.\), 202-872-8700, hudson-dc.com](#)

Michael Mina Bourbon Steak • Georgetown • Modern American

It's not that the Four Seasons' restaurant was bad, it's just that it wasn't wow-worthy. But Michael Mina's Bourbon Steak is in the house now, so let the wow-ing begin. "Elegant informality" is the catchphrase the restaurant uses to describe its design, which plays up a tavern theme using natural and handcrafted accents, such as leather, wood, and rubbed glass. Diners gaze out at the C&O Canal while savoring classic Mina dishes: for instance, crispy skin Atlantic striped bass or lobster pot pie. The wood-burning grill in the kitchen sends out the irresistible smoky smell of steak and lamb being cooked to perfection.

of designs by Nanette Lepore, Stella McCartney, Cynthia Rowley, and their ilk, and bebies of young lovelies looking to score. *Mon–Thu 11am–7pm, Fri–Sat 11am–8pm, Sun noon–5pm.* 3289 M St. NW (33rd St. NW), 202-333-2355, [secondtimearound.net](#)


Classic DC Hotels

St. Regis Hotel • White House • Timeless (175 rms)


The St. Regis's location near the White House and its Italian palace décor have always played well to a star-studded clientele. But let's face it, that doesn't mean a thing if the hotel's lacking the latest zings. Following a 16-month makeover, the St. Regis has all that now, from Pratesi linens to iPod docking stations. Guest rooms evince a posh pied-à-terre elegance, sporting rich rust and gold tones and designed-for-cool comfort furnishings. Butlers carry PDA devices so as to be summonable 24/7. The hotel's famous Library Bar, where many of the city's high and mighty have often sought refuge, remains untouched. Chose the grand luxe rooms cornering K St. for city views. \$\$\$\$ [923 16th St. NW \(K St.\), 202-638-2626 / 866-716-8116, \[stregis.com/DC\]\(#\)](#)

Classic DC Restaurants

Corduoy • Downtown • Modern American

It must be said, and not in a mean way, that any restaurant located in a Four Points Sheraton Hotel that manages to place 17th out of 100 on *Washingtonian* magazine's annual "Best DC Restaurants" list must be exceptional. And Corduroy is. So exceptional, in fact, that chef Tom Power finally decided to find his own space. Inside an old Ninth St. townhouse near the convention center is this sleek, modern-looking dining room with maple paneling and a stainless steel open kitchen, from which issue old favorites, such as seared big-eye tuna with sesame vinaigrette, and new ones, such as Muscovy duck with fig sauce. Food lovers and power fans are on the scene. *Mon–Sat 5:30–10:30pm (will be open for lunch soon).* \$\$\$\$  [1122 Ninth St. NW \(L St.\), 202-589-0699, \[corduroydc.com\]\(#\)](#)

Locanda • Capitol Hill • Italian

It's a sure thing that dinner at the Locanda will include sightings of congressional members and other Hill types, for the simple reason that fine dining establishments are rare on Capitol Hill, where chili and onion rings qualify as regional cuisine. The politicians and their hangers-on are ever desperate for a nearby place famous for something other than cheap beer at happy hour. Locanda, whose name is Italian for "sophisticated eatery," seems to be doing the trick. Eggplant and ricotta ravioli, branzino with fennel and herb salad are a far cry from fried cheese sticks. Sit at the front of the long, skinny dining room to observe everyone's comings and goings. *Tue–Thu 11:30am–2:30pm and 6–10pm, Fri 11:30am–2:30pm and 6–11pm, Sat 6–11pm, Sun 11:30am–3pm.* \$\$  [633 Pennsylvania Ave. SE \(26th St.\), 202-547-0002, \[locandadc.com\]\(#\)](#)

accompany the wine, for Veritas is a wine bar, pure and simple. Exposed brick, a long bar, and wine bottle displays are key décor elements. Other wine bars will be opening soon, but Veritas stands a good chance of remaining the favorite. *Nightly 5pm–closing.* ☏ 2031 Florida Ave. NW (Connecticut Ave.), 202-265-6270, veritasdc.com

Hip DC Attractions

Georgetown Flea Market • Georgetown • Market

It's baaaack! After a two-year hiatus, the Georgetown Flea Market has returned to its original location, in the schoolyard of Hardy Middle School, once again attracting locals, visiting celebrities, and die-hard scavengers to paw over antiques, furnishings, china, garden ornaments, the works. Stop first at the nearby Starbucks for a java jolt, then head over to the market. Keep your eyes peeled for famous faces; Diane Keaton and author Larry McMurtry are among those who've been spotted here through the years. *Sun 8am–5pm.* 1819 35th St. NW (Wisconsin Ave.), 202-775-3532, georgetownfleamarket.com

Hillyer Art Space • Dupont Circle • Art Gallery

Somehow both charming and cutting-edge, Hillyer Art Space is a two-room gallery showcasing works by contemporary local, regional, and international artists. The gallery embraces the idea of fostering “cross-cultural understanding and exposure to the arts internationally,” so one show might feature an exhibit of Brazilian printmakers' works, while the next displays breathtaking paintings by local artist Paul Reuther. Not to miss are the First Friday events, when live music and complimentary eats from local favorite restaurants such as Zaytinya attract a cool, young crowd. *Mon 10am–5pm, Tue–Fri 10am–7pm, Sat 11am–4pm.* 9 Hill-er Ct. NW (Florida Ave.), 202-338-0680, artsandartists.org/artspace.html

Newseum • Penn Quarter • Museum

Fold up that newspaper. Shut down your computer. Turn off the TV. You want the latest news? It's this: the Newseum opened April 11 and as befits a museum devoted to the news, it's totally riveting. The glass-fronted, seven-level building stands out on Pennsylvania Avenue, in view of the Capitol. Visible through the glass is the atrium's immense LCD screen, displaying a continuous flow of breaking world news. Fourteen galleries, 15 theaters, two broadcast studios, and 130 interactive stations help visitors explore five centuries of news history: Play a reporter in an interactive news room, feel virtually “on the spot” in a 4-D theater experience of a journalistic moment, or otherwise indulge your inner news hound. *Daily 9am–5pm.* \$\$ 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (Sixth St.), 888-639-7386, newseum.org

Second Time Around • Georgetown • Store

Secondhand fashion boutiques will always have a place in Washington, where social scenesters aren't always the most affluent, even if they are the most powerful. Historically the domain of elegant grandes dames, DC's consignment stores these days feature younger faces and hotter styles. Second Time Around is one such. “Resale Goes Upscale” reads the green banner above its arched entrance on busy M St. Inside lies one long room filled with racks upon racks

All together now: Wow!. *Sun–Thu 11:30am–2:30pm and 5:30–10pm, Fri–Sat 11:30am–2:30pm and 5:30–10:30pm.* \$\$\$ ☏ Four Seasons Hotel, 2800 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (28th St. NW), 202-944-2026, michaelmina.net

Oyamel Cocina Mexicana • Penn Quarter • Mexican

Was there ever any doubt that Jose Andres' newest restaurant would be an instant hit? Of course not. Actually, Oyamel is not so much new as transplanted, having moved from suburban Virginia to this prime Penn Quarter perch, a stone's throw from Andres' other babies, the perennially popular Jaleo, Café Atlantico, and Zaytinya. The real point is: This guy knows how to bring a place to life. The salt-air margaritas, the sterling tableside-made guacamole, and all those cunning little antojitos, from tacos de pescado to chiles en nogada, draw a stylish, ravenous bunch. Best seats in the house are at the tiny, window-front ceviche counter, where bar stools grant you an enviable see-and-be-seen advantage. Oyamel's walk-in policy (it takes few reservations) and the happy bar scene under way right inside the entrance give the place the ebb and flow of a festive house party, with an easy exuberance spreading throughout the crowd of young professionals and older trendsetters. *Sun–Mon 11:30am–10pm, Tue–Thu 11:30am–11:30pm, Fri–Sat 11:30am–midnight.* \$ ☏ 401 Seventh St. NW (D St.), 202-628-1005, oyamel.com

Proof* • Penn Quarter • New American

“Proof is in the pudding” and “proof positive”—oh, yes, Washington wags are having fun spinning the name of DC's latest chick magnet. It's all good. Just ask the frocked-up flirts eyeing you from the bar as you enter, or the six young sophisticates ensconced at a wine-bottle-laden table. Best seats are in the banquettes facing the window front, with stellar views of Penn Quarter sights outside and the exuberant social scene within. Star sommelier Sebastian Zutant guides diners to the perfect sip and, if pressed, his favorite dishes (flatbreads, pork rilletes) at the wine-centric restaurant, where DC's trendiest keep returning for further proof of Proof. *Mon–Wed 11:30am–2pm and 5–10:30pm, Thu–Fri 11:30am–2pm and 5:30–11pm, Sat 5:30–11pm, Sun 5–9:30pm (bar open nightly).* \$\$\$ ☏ 775 G St. NW (Eighth St.), 202-737-7663, proofdc.com

Skye Lounge* • White House • Cafe

Washington, DC's popular upscale martini lounge, receives high marks for its Mediterranean dishes and its salads. (Try the Zeus.). *Mon–Thu 11am–2am, Fri 11am–3am, Sat 8pm–3am.* \$\$ ☏ 1919 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, entrance on I St., (19th St.), 202-331-5800, skyedc.com

The Source • Penn Quarter • Asian

Riding the wave of celebrity chefdom that's taken the Western World by storm, this eatery's full name is actually “The Source by Wolfgang Puck.” As the guy who started it all, Puck's entitled, especially since his first Washington foray has proven to be a spectacular success. The sophisticated Asian fare, a rare offering in DC, is fantastic. Upstairs finds foodies drooling over pork belly-filled dumplings and slow-cooked, Indian-spiced Kobe short ribs. Downstairs is a sexier scene, with capital comers lounging on L-shape couches, slurping dark and stormies. Located in a corner of the Newseum, The Source's two-story, window-wrapped façade and streamlined, minimalist interior allow for intriguing views from any seat in the

house. *Mon–Thu 5:30–10pm (lounge until 11pm), Fri–Sat 5:30–11pm (lounge until midnight).* \$\$\$ 📍 575 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (Sixth St.), 202-637-6100, wolfgangpuck.com/restaurants

Urbana* • Dupont Circle • French

Party animals beware: Arrive early for your dinner reservation and you might never make it to your table. The bar scene here is just too damn fun. Trendy young locals throng the lounge Thursday through Saturday nights, downing English Summers (Pimm’s, vodka, and ginger beer) to wash the work week away. If you do manage to pull yourself away—and you must, the food’s so good—you’ll be rewarded with a comfy seat in a crescent-shape booth and tastes of pizza charcuterie, spice-roasted branzini, and butterscotch crème brûlée. Then it’s back to the bar you should go, where a sweet time continues into the wee hours. *Sun 8am–3pm and 5–10pm, Mon–Thu 7–10:30am, 11:30am–3pm, and 5–10pm, Fri 7–10:30am, 11:30am–3pm, and 5–11pm, Sat 8am–3pm and 5–11pm. Bar lounge Sun–Thu noon–midnight, Fri–Sat noon–2am.* \$\$ 📍 2121 P St. NW (21st St.), 202-956-6650, urbanadc.com

Vinoteca Wine Bar and Bistro* • U Street Corridor • American

Washington’s 20- and 30-somethings are crazy into wine these days. And on cue, a bevy of wine bars lately has sprung up to cater to that taste, Vinoteca among them. Located in a townhouse just off U Street, Vinoteca manages to squeeze into its long, narrow space a bar area at the front, wall-hugging banquettes at the rear, a large lounge upstairs, and sidewalk seating outside. Early reviews report that the bistro fare and service need work, but the 68 choices of wine by the glass are superb. Very much a neighborhood hangout, Vinoteca offers a little something for everybody, including flamenco dancers on Sunday nights. Chat up new friends at the bar or head upstairs to the lounge for make-yourself-at-home appeal. Its late hours make Vinoteca a favorite, and quite civilized, spot to call in for one last toast. *Tue–Thu 4:30pm–2am, Fri–Sat 4:30pm–3am, Sat 10am–3pm, Sun 10am–3pm and 4:30pm–2am.* \$\$ 📍 1940 11th St. NW (U St.), 202-332-9463, vinotecadc.com

Westend Bistro by Eric Ripert* • West End • American

Frenchman Eric Ripert, full of lip, artfully coiffed, preens from his restaurant’s website home page, but *tant pis*, seldom from the open kitchen of his crackling hot bistro. (Ripert’s main gig is as chef at New York’s esteemed Le Bernardin.) Never mind. Diners eagerly converge here for Ripert’s designs on American dishes, burgers to Chesapeake seafood stew, and a few French classics. Open barely two months, the bistro rather shockingly captured a coveted slot (#15!) in Washingtonian magazine’s 2008 100 Best Restaurants list. The bar, meanwhile, is the latest favorite swilling ground for the coltish set, whose chatter adds to the overall happy-to-be-here feel. *Sun–Thu 11:30am–2:30pm and 5:30–10pm, Fri–Sat 11:30am–2:30pm and 5:30–11pm.* \$\$ 📍 1190 22nd St. NW (M St.), 202-974-4900, westendbistrodc.com

and shots of Jameson Irish whiskey. The Pug is your old-fashioned neighborhood joint and because that’s a rarity these days, that’s exactly its hip appeal. *Mon–Thu 6pm–2am, Fri–Sat 6pm–3am.* 📍 1234 H St. NE (12th St.), 202-388-8554

The Red & The Black • Atlas District • Bar and Club

Located in the well-worn, but newly tantalizing Atlas District, The Red & The Black wears its coolness with a sense of humor: Visit on a Tuesday and \$12 will get you a haircut and a shot. There are live music shows upstairs nearly nightly, mostly indie rockers and quiet singer-songwriters, though the owners hope to line up blues and country performers. For shows that sell out (the room holds only 100 people), The Red & The Black offers its downstairs bar as consolation prize. It embraces a New Orleans theme (“laissez les bons temps rouler”), and you’ll want to settle into a red leather booth, nurse a bottle of Abita, and just hang out with some fellow mellow pals. Music sometimes leaks from upstairs, in which case you can sit and enjoy the show from below, along with some not-bad jambalaya. *Sun–Thu 6pm–2am, Fri–Sat 6pm–3am.* 📍 1212 H St. NE (12th St.), 202-399-3201, 202-399-3201

Rock & Roll Hotel • Atlas District • Dance Club

DC’s newest hip neighborhood is in a part of town you wouldn’t want to visit during the day: There’s nothin’ doin’ here 9 to 5 except the hardworking Washingtonian’s daily grind. Once the sun goes down, H Street gets a whole lot livelier, as urban ramblers trek here to check out alternative sounds and cheap beers at the Rock & Roll Hotel and its relatives up and down this edgy street. The R&R features live music by indie groups, like the Presets, as well as DJs, who pull in a go-crazy dance crowd. Rock-and-rollers tend to be high-energy 20-somethings, sporting tattoos and tight jeans. A word to the wise: Check out the concert schedule and purchase tickets online to save time at the door. *Sun–Thu 8pm–midnight, Fri–Sat 8pm–3am.* 📍 1353 H St. NE (13th St.), 202-388-7625, rockandrollhoteldc.com

Vegas Lounge • U Street Corridor • Dance Club

“Come one, come all, let’s have a ball,” utters a sexy baritone on this club’s recorded phone message. Every type of music—hip-hop, Latin, trance, house, and international music—has its major venue in DC. But only one place in town allows you to get down, get funky, and dance to live rhythm and blues, and Vegas is it. Friday and Saturday nights almost always feature the sounds of Dr. Blues and the Out of Town Blues Band, whose takes on “Try a Little Tenderness,” “Mustang Sally,” and the like make it impossible not to jump out of your seat and onto the dance floor, where everybody remains from the first set to the last. *Thu 9pm–2am, Fri–Sat 9pm–3am.* 📍 1415 P St. NW (14th St.), 202-483-3971, newvegaslounge.com

Veritas • Dupont Circle • Wine Bar

Who knew? All the cool kids ever wanted was a cozy little wine bar. That’s how it seems, anyway, since Veritas opened its doors. Situated at the point where Dupont Circle heads into Adams Morgan, Veritas is a tiny, soft-lit space that fills nightly with young sophisticates, snogging couples, and first daters. They’re all here trying out some of the 70 exquisite wines by the glass or a bottle or two—rather loudly, it must be said, for happy conversation grows quickly noisy in the confined quarters. The menu lists small plates of cheese and charcuterie to

right next door, share the same owners, who are nuts for sustainable fishing, so you can feel righteous as you devour every splendid morsel. *Daily 11am–11pm.* \$ [☞ 3245 M St. NW \(Potomac St.\), 202-337-8269, tacklebox-dc.com](#)

Vapiano • Dupont Circle • Pizzeria

Within spitting distance of a stable of nightclubs—Five, Spy Lounge, MCCXII—is the DC outpost for this popular Euro pizza and pasta chain. If it were only open past midnight. Nope, the time to come is at high noon, when a diverse mix of young office workers and longhaired, sexy beast diplomatic types check each other out as they queue for the prosciutto and mozzarella and other gourmet pies. Individual touches belie the chain ID: pastas and sauces are made fresh and in-house, and the chalkboard lists the menu but also random comments from the staff (“There is nothing like good food, good wine, and a bad girl”), and 22 wines are offered by the glass. Stake out the red comfy chairs in the front window. *Mon–Thu 11am–11pm, Fri 11am–midnight, Sat noon–11pm, Sun noon–10pm.* \$ [☞ 1800 M St. NW \(18th St.\), 202-640-1868, vapiano.com](#)

Hip DC Nightlife

Cork* • U Street Corridor • Wine Bar

Oenophiles of all stripes like to hang out here testing flights of traditional and adventurous vintages. *Tue–Wed 5pm–midnight, Thu–Sat 5pm–1am, Sun 5pm–midnight.* [☞ 1720 14th St. NW \(R St.\), 202-265-2675, corkdc.com](#)

Marvin • U Street Corridor • Bistro/Lounge

Open less than a year, Marvin is already a destination. Sharing the same lineage as the über-hip Eighteenth Street Lounge, Marvin eschews that club’s exclusivity with its Euro bistro, neighborhood bar, and DJ joint cross-appeal. Everyone’s welcome and that’s the only problem, as the cozy upstairs bar and lounge jam up most nights. The large rooftop deck catches overflow and proves as good a spot as any to shimmy to the nightly DJ-spun Motown and R&B sounds. Named after Marvin Gaye, Marvin serves decent Belgian classics (Gaye lived briefly in Belgium) and American soul food in its atmospheric first-floor bistro, and features 30 Belgian beers by the bottle, some on tap. Book a table reservation for the restaurant downstairs—any night’s a good night here—and arrive on a weeknight for a shot at a seat in the upstairs lounge. Best nights for the bar/lounge are Friday and Saturday past 10pm, although whether you’ll be able to breathe in the wall-to-wall crowd is another question. *Sun–Thu 5:30–11pm, lounge until 2am; Fri–Sat 5:30pm–midnight, lounge until 3am.* [☞ 2007 14th St. NW \(U St.\), 202-797-7171, marvindc.com](#)

The Pug • Atlas District • Bar

Nightlifers continue to rage against the dawning of the light in the Atlas District’s ever-proliferating lineup of restaurants, live music clubs, and theatres. But it’s always nice to have a fail-safe refuge for a time out, and The Pug does the job nicely. The place has a boxing theme (The Pug derives from “pugilist”), a low-key ambience, and already a bunch of regulars, though it hasn’t been open that long. Fancy brews? Cutesy cocktails? Fuggedabout it. More like cans of Bud

Chic DC Nightlife

Brasserie Beck* • Downtown • Bar

The lively, expansive bar fronts the restaurant, its bartenders and patrons ever poised to welcome all who enter here. *Mon–Thu 11:30am–12:30am, Fri 11:30am–1am, Sat 5pm–1am, Sun 11:30am–8pm.* [☞ 1101 K St. NW \(11th St. NW\), 202-408-1717, beckdc.com](#)

Co Co. Sala* • Penn Quarter • Bar/Lounge/Café

This chocolate lounge is DC’s latest “it” place, where the sensual tastes, smells, and sights of chocolate recall scenes from films such as *Like Water for Chocolate* and *Chocolat*. Exotic-looking, sexily dressed bartenders and bouncers speak with charming accents. TV screens above the bar spool visions of chocolate being chopped and swirled. DC’s hippest scenestealers are here, inhaling cocojitos (chocolate-infused vodka mixed with muddled mint leaves), and doing their best to bring sexy back. Back-to-back bars, mood lighting, banquettes, and Eurotrance music enhance the dreamy feel, but a sip or bite of chocolate seals the deal. *Mon–Wed 5pm–midnight, Thu 5pm–2am, Fri 5pm–3am, Sun 11am–6pm.* [☞ 929 F St. NW \(Ninth St. \), 202-347-4265, cocosalala.com](#)

The Park at 14th • Downtown • Lounge

The Park at 14th, with its faux Chihuly chandeliers glittering from within the glass-front, four-story façade, lit up the nightlife sky like fireworks when it arrived in November 2007. The Park’s owners know their stuff (Marc Barnes, who owns DC’s premier dance club, Love, is a backer here) and already have secured the attention of the city’s hey-look-me-over crowd, who you’ll find panting at the velvet rope every weekend. No cover but admission is by invitation only (sometimes all you have to do is ask). The luxuriously furnished club features four bars, two balconies, table service starting at \$500, and DJs. Reserve a table ahead of time, choose sophisticated over funky fashions, make sure you’ve got \$500 in your pocket to cover the table reservation, and show up at the door with your fingers crossed—entry seems often to be at the whim of the door staff. Saturday night after 11pm is the best time to be here; take the elevator to the fourth floor to put yourself in the thick of the fast crowd and the DJ’s international and R&B spun tunes. *Thu 5:30pm–2am, Fri 5:30pm–3am, Sat 9pm–3am.* [☞ 920 14th St. NW \(K St.\), 202-737-7275, theparkat14th.com](#)

Proof* • Penn Quarter • Bar

Hard to say who’s having a better time, the diners savoring the New American cuisine in the dining room or the imbibers packed into the adjoining bar, in full-throttle devil-may-care mood. *Mon–Wed 11:30am–2pm and 5:30–1am, Thu–Fri 11:30am–2pm and 5:30–2am, Sat 5:30–2am, Sun 5–midnight.* [☞ 775 G St. NW \(Eighth St. NW\), 202-737-7663, proofdc.com](#)

Shadow Room • Foggy Bottom • Nightclub

Equal parts nightclub and techie playground, Shadow Room boasts toys including touch-screen-equipped booths that allow clubbers to order drinks or ice, ask the DJ for tunes, settle their bill, and summon the valet to bring the car around, all without moving from their leather seats. Plasma TVs, PlayStations, and

assorted wireless gizmos round out the fun and games. Dancing, however, is an equal draw, and by 1am on a Saturday night, that's all anybody in the place wants to do. *Fri-Sat 10pm-3am.* ☰ 2131 K St. NW (21st St. NW), 202-887-1200, [shadowroom.com](#)

Skype Lounge* • White House • Café/Lounge

Office girls in their summer dresses sit outside at tables eating salads on the canopy-covered sidewalk, while inside their suited bosses lounge on white leather couches, noshing on antipasti and occasionally glancing up at the TV above the bar to follow the soccer game. Or are they spying on their outdoor underlings, on view through the floor-to-ceiling windows? Everyone's drinking blue-colored martinis, including a table of Frenchmen, who've stopped in, perhaps, after a day of toiling at the nearby World Bank. Skype is located in an office building surrounded by taller versions of the same, but its sky blue walls, crisp white furnishings, fruity cocktails, and international vibe help loungers leave the work world behind. *Mon-Thu 11am-11pm, Fri 11am-2:30am, Sat 8pm-2:30am.* ☰ 1919 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, entrance on I St., (19th St.), 202-331-5800, [skyedc.com](#)

UltraBar • Penn Quarter • Nightclub

Washington Post nightlife reporters name UltraBar as one of the city's best bets for dancing, which takes place on all four floors of the club. Every night features a fresh rotation of the DJ menu, so on a Thursday, it might be salsa in the basement, hip-hop on the main floor, Top 40 on the third level, and house in the top floor's VIP lounge. Tips: Check out the mezzanine overlooking the dance floor and go online to print out passes that get you free admission before 11pm. *Thu 10pm-2am, Fri-Sat 10pm-3am.* ☰ 911 F St. NW (Ninth St.), 202-638-4663, [ultrabaradc.com](#)

Urbana* • Dupont Circle • Bar

Truth be told—and despite the fact that this is a hotel venue—Urbana's bar and party scene can be a bit startling to hotel guests stopping in for a bite to eat. *Mon-Thu 7-10:30am, 11:30am-3pm, and 5:30-midnight, Fri 7-10:30am, 11:30am-3pm, and 5:30-2am, Sat 8am-3pm and 5:30-2am, Sun 8am-3pm and 5:30-midnight.* ☰ 2121 P St. NW (21st St. NW), 202-956-6650, [urbanadc.com](#)

Vinoteca Wine Bar and Bistro* • U Street Corridor • Wine Bar

Vinoteca is all over the concept of combining a wine bar and saloon. Offering 68 choices of wine by the glass, open hours until 3am Friday and Saturday, and flamenco dancers on Sunday nights, Vinoteca succeeds at creating a "Hail fellow, well met" atmosphere. *Tue-Thu 4:30pm-2am, Fri-Sat 4:30pm-3am, Sun 11am-3pm and 4:30pm-2am.* ☰ 1940 11th St. NW (U St. NW), 202-332-9463, [vinotecadc.com](#)

Westend Bistro* • West End • Bar

How to find the Westend Bistro's bar inside the Ritz-Carlton Washington Hotel? Just follow the sounds of buzzing conversation and peals of delighted laughter. *Mon-Thu 11:30am-2:30pm and 5:30-10pm, Fri 11:30am-2:30pm and 5:30-11pm, Sat 5:30-11pm, Sun 5:30-11pm.* ☰ Ritz-Carlton Washington, 1190 22nd St. NW (M St. NW), 202-974-4900, [westendbistrodc.com](#)

stew) are two more. In a matter of months since opening, Las Canteras has become a favorite among DCists looking for fun, but good food, too, a rare combination in Adams Morgan these days. Dine upstairs, slurp another cocktail in the intimate bar downstairs, and then, depending on your desires, head back to the hotel or barhop up 18th Street. *Tue-Fri 11am-3pm and 5-11pm, Sat 11am-4pm and 5-11pm, Sun 11am-4pm and 5-11pm.* \$ ☰ 2307 18th St. NW (Belmont St.), 202-265-1780, [lascanterasdc.com](#)

On the Fly Vendors • Various • Vendor Food

Hot dogs and doughy pretzels? Soooo last century, at least when it comes to street vendor food. "Fresh. Local. Fun." is the motto of ecovendor On the Fly, whose first battery-powered SmartKart debuted at the corner of H and Eighth St. NW, selling freshmade empanadas to grateful, hungry downtowners. The company expects to roll out another 17 strategically located carts throughout the year, each hawking a different fast and fresh food specialty of a local favorite restaurant, like Asian fusion from Teatism. Look for a brightly painted nubbins of a car, sprouting 14-foot tall wings. The entire operation is ecologically friendly. *Mon-Fri 11am-3pm.* \$- [Various locations, dconthefly.com](#)

Posto • U Street Corridor • Italian

It goes like this: The doors open for dinner, a few passersby wander in and sit down in the cavernous, empty dining room, and the next thing you know, the place is jammed. Night after night it's the same at the no-reservations bistro. This little sister of the elegant Tosca lies in a neighborhood of theatres and boutiques, nightclubs and bars, and draws from that scene a motley crowd of hand-holding gay couples, bearded beatnik types, and the casual-glam attired in high-heeled boots and tight jeans. It's live theatre, actually, with everyone sending up a joyous noise as they sit chatting between mouthfuls of freshly made tortellini with cream sauce or tagliatelle with pheasant ragout, in the large, high-ceilinged room, all on view from the sidewalk through the restaurant's vast front window. *Mon-Thu 5:30-10:30pm, Fri-Sat 5-11:30pm, Sun 5-10pm.* \$ ☰ 1515 14th St. NW (P St. NW), 202-332-8613, [postodc.com](#)

SweetGreen • Georgetown • Salad Takeout

How green is your salad carryout, SweetGreen? So green that your paper takeout menu is lined with wildflower seeds that sprout when you plant the menu in dirt. So green that the Green Restaurant Association has officially certified your greenness. So green that ingredients used to make the salads and yogurts are all natural and locally grown. So green that even your store's design is eco-friendly, using reclaimed hickory in its ceiling, floor, and walls. And as anyone in the takeout line of Georgetown students and slender sophisticates will tell you, nothing is hipper these days than green. *Mon-Fri 11am-9pm, Sat-Sun noon-9pm.* \$- ☰ 3333 M St. NW (Bank Alley), 202-337-9338, [sweetgreen.com](#)

Tackle Box • Georgetown • Seafood

When Tackle Box gets its wine and beer license ("any day now"), it will be complete. For now, the lobster buoy-draped joint jumps with hungry Georgetowners seated at communal picnic tables as they satisfy cravings for fried oysters and clams, lobster on a roll or in the buff, or a simple wood-grilled fish. The price is insanely low: \$13 for the main dish and two sides like hush puppies, mac 'n' cheese, or grilled asparagus, to name a few. Tackle Box and the upscale Hook,

Commissary • U Street Corridor • American

“Your neighborhood place—honest pricing” reads Commissary’s storefront window and don’t you know, the line fits. Residents and friends are flocking here. It helps that Commissary serves as coffeehouse, restaurant, bar, and lounge, with the long hours, assorted furnishings, and menus to match. Whether you order a latte and settle in with your laptop, toss back an organically produced beer at the bar, or bite into a BLT, the vibe is the same: Sit down, and make yourself at home. *Mon–Thu 8am–midnight, Fri 8am–1am, Sat 9am–1am, Sun 9am–11pm.* \$ ☹ ☹ 1443 P St. NW (14th St. NW), 202-299-0018, commissarydc.com

CommonWealth • Mt. Pleasant • British Gastropub

The ground floor of a new luxury apartment building in the ethnic Columbia Heights (near Mt. Pleasant) neighborhood might seem an unlikely setting for a gastropub, but it’s proved quite the smash. Owner and chef Jamie Leeds, known for her two Hank’s Oyster Bar eateries, here offers a range of mouthwatering meat dishes, including Scotch eggs wrapped in sausage and a weekly Sunday roast, prepared with seasonal sides. Old wood paneling, a Brit pop soundtrack, and Newcastle Ale available on tap add to the overall pub feeling. *Tue–Thu 11:30am–3pm and 5–11pm, Fri 11:30am–3pm and 5pm–midnight, Sat 11am–4pm and 5pm–midnight, Sun 11am–4pm and 5–11pm.* \$ ☹ ☹ 1400 Irving St. NW (14th St. NW), 202-265-1400, commonwealthgastropub.com

Cork* • U Street Corridor • Wine Bar/Restaurant

Looks like wine bars are here to stay. Count on Cork, anyway. Ensnconed in a former coffeehouse, the cozy bar with exposed brick walls and a tin ceiling is attracting Hill types, thanks to politically plugged-in owners and 20-somethings from the ‘hood. Cork’s inventory includes 143 bottles and 41 wines by the glass, vintages from all over the world—except the US and Australia, which the owners figure already get enough coverage. A sampling of mussels, French fries, or pan-crisped brioche sandwich of prosciutto and fontina confirm the truth of the rumor: The chef learned his tricks as sous chef at top DC restaurant CityZen. *Tue–Wed 5pm–midnight, Thu–Sat 5pm–1am, Sun 5pm–midnight.* \$ ☹ ☹ 1720 14th St. NW (R St.), 202-265-2675, corkdc.com

Good Stuff Eatery • Capitol Hill • Burger Joint

Cock your head and cradle your ear, and you just might catch the sound of the buzz accompanying the opening of Good Stuff Eatery, *Top Chef* contestant Spike Mendelsohn’s latest venture. The mouthy guy wearing the fedora? Burgers are the draw at this Capitol Hill burgerie, especially the farmhouse cheeseburger on a Pennsylvania Dutch bun, along with hand-cut fries and hand-spun shakes. As old-fashioned as all this may sound, the concept is more young and hip, according to the young and hip Mendelsohn, who sees this burger palace as the start of an empire—and according to the young and hip who flock here. You heard it here first. *Mon–Sat 11am–11pm, Sun 11am–8pm.* \$ ☹ ☹ 303 Pennsylvania Ave. SE (Third St.), 202-543-8222, goodstuffeatery.com

Las Canteras* • Adams Morgan • Peruvian

In the prettily decorated, dimly lit dining room, two weekend-ready couples debate the origins of the pisco sour: Peru or Chile? Never mind, just drink it. The brandied grape cocktail and the knockout margarita are two good reasons to come here, and Peruvian specialties, like cebiches and seco de carne (beef

Chic DC Attractions

Beauty 360 • Dupont Circle • Spa/Store

Toss aside any preconceived notions about CVS so that you can grasp the store’s newest concept, Beauty 360. Washington’s is the very first Beauty 360 to launch. Here’s what it is: a boutique and spa that lies adjacent to but separate from its CVS pharmacy, Beauty 360 sells more than 30 niche beauty brands, from Bloom to Lavera, and provides a raft of beauty services such as facials and pedicures, administered by trained and licensed professionals. Most fun are the “Innovation Stations” and “Play Stations,” where customers can test products. It’s not your mother’s CVS. *Mon–Fri 7am–9pm, Sat 8am–8pm, Sun 9am–7pm.* \$\$\$ 1350 Connecticut Ave. NW (Massachusetts Ave. NW), 202-331-1725, beauty360.com

Georgetown Cupcake • Georgetown • Bakery

Take two hip sisters and their grandmother’s delicious cupcake recipes, mix in a quaint Georgetown townhouse, and finish with decorative flourishes—precious website, pretty packaging, and *voilà!* You’ve got the Georgetown Cupcake. Open since February 2008, the tiny bakery sells out hourly, often to Georgetown U. students, who make the Cupcake their first stop before class. With a repertoire of 20 flavors, Katherine Kallinis and Sophie LaMontagne turn out 12 different versions daily, like the Lemon Blossom (lemon cupcake with cream cheese frosting), the Baby Blue (bourbon vanilla cupcake with baby blue vanilla frosting), and some of at least 9 variations on chocolate. *Sun noon–5pm, Tue–Fri 11am–7pm, Sat 11am–9pm.* \$ 1209 Potomac St. NW (M St.), 202-333-8448, georgetowncupcake.com

Lost Boys • Georgetown • Store

Now hear this, all you men with fashion-forward desires and hopeless fashion sense—lost boys, in other words. Store-owner Kelly Muccio is ready to take you in hand and turn you out an effortlessly cool and well-dressed man. Muccio stocks her boutique with hard-to-find labels, such as Earnest Sewn and Band of Outsiders, selling boxers, cashmere hoodies, dress shirts, et al. Doesn’t hurt that Muccio is gorgeous, the shop Georgetown-charming (exposed brick, polished wooden floors). On the horizon: Scotch tastings while you shop. *Tue–Thu 11am–7pm, Fri–Sat 11am–8pm, Sun 11am–6pm.* 1033 31st St. NW (M St.), 202-333-0093, lostboysdc.com

National Museum of Crime and Punishment • Penn Quarter • Museum

Evil is such a nasty business, but oh, so very fascinating, as this newest Penn Quarter attraction confirms. Its three floors and five galleries of exhibits present the history of crime and punishment in America, delving into the lives of criminal masterminds, and offering interactive features that allow you to use a forensics lab, participate in a simulated FBI shooting gallery, and take a lie detector test. John Walsh is one of the partners in this museum and his popular *America’s Most Wanted* series is now being broadcast from the onsite studio. *Sep–Feb 10am–6pm, Mar–Aug 9am–7pm.* \$ 575 Seventh St. NW (E St. NW), 202-393-1099, crimemuseum.org

Rue 14 • U Street Corridor • Store

Not so very long ago, 14th Street in Washington was known as the red light district. Now it's the stomping ground for fashionistas seeking cunning clothing for cut-rate prices at one of several boutiques that have sprung up in the neighborhood. The tiny, airy second-floor Rue 14 is tops among them. Skinny jeans for \$68? Fetching designer duds for less than \$200? Sweet. And it's not just women's clothing—menswear, accessories, casual dresses, fancy pants, it's all here. You know you want it, that Christys' & Company fedora (\$58!), that Free People metallic mini-dress (\$148!) So go for it. *Tue–Fri noon–7pm, Sat 11am–7pm, Sun noon–6pm. 1803A 14th St. NW (S St. NW), 202-462-6200, rue14.com*

Setchi Ecoboutique • Georgetown • Store

Weekdays, this tiny shop is pretty quiet, but come the weekend, Setchi's fans swoop in from near and far—DC city councilwomen and Hollywood darlings alike are among its clientele. It's about wanting to be ecofriendly, sure, but more than that, it's about wanting to be fashionably ecofriendly, and that's Setchi in a nutshell. Leggings made of organic bamboo, Del Forte denim jeans sewn with organically grown cotton, vegan Charmoné shoes containing no leather, and Ciel “contemplate consciousness” dresses are just some of the stunningly cool designs for sale. *Tue–Sat 11:30am–5:30pm, Sun 1–4pm. 1614 Wisconsin Ave. NW (Q St.), 202-333-5570, shopsetchi.com*

Zola Wine & Kitchen • Penn Quarter • Store

Around the corner from Zola, the restaurant is Zola, the wine shop and test kitchen. The shop offers some 400 different wines from around the world, but a couple of features make it different from other wine stores. Its ultramodern décor includes a glass façade overlooking the street, and LED-lit walls display the bottled wines in order of lightest to darkest hue, to help a customer choose the desired intensity of taste. Spy holes in one of these walls reveal the adjacent kitchen, where Zola chef Bryan Moscatello and his team test recipes to use in dishes they prepare for the restaurant, as well as conduct cooking classes and host celebrity chef appearances. *Mon–Sat 11am–8pm, Sun noon–6pm. 505 Ninth St. NW (F St.), 202-639-9463, zolawinekitchen.com*

Hip DC Hotels

Donovan House • Downtown • Trendy (193 rms)

Lord knows, tradition has its place in DC, but not, thankfully, in Donovan House, the hip jewel of a hotel that debuted in March 2008. This first DC venture of the Thompson Hotels Group ratchets up the city's trendiness factor with pod-like chairs, leather-wrapped beds, and cocoon spiral showers in the guest rooms and a bar and lounge up on the roof. The hotel sits on Thomas Circle and its best and most spacious standard rooms, the studio kings, overlook the circle. Fashion-forward in design, Donovan hopes to attract the same in clientele, here for business or pleasure. All guest rooms have floor-to-ceiling windows, flat screen TVs, and iPod docking stations. The rooftop terrace and its remarkable city views are expected to draw chic guests from the hotel and young professionals from the

neighborhood. Still to come: a pool on the roof and a celebrity chef in the restaurant. \$\$\$ 1155 14th St. NW (Massachusetts Ave.), 202-737-1200 / 800-383-6900, donovanhousedc.com

Hip DC Restaurants

ACKC Cocoa Gallery • U Street Corridor • Cafe

Arty little 20-somethings sit at the few tables in this caef (which is also an art gallery and chocolate shop), sipping Lucys, or Audreys, or Marilyns, variously flavored hot chocolates, each named for a famed femme of piquant personality. It's all about the chocolate, and not just the steamed, thick liquid kind, but the candy kind, assortments of which are on display in the glass cases. ACKC stands for Artfully Chocolate and Kingsbury Confections, two local chocolate boutiques that have teamed up to offer this salon. Everything's for sale: not just the fancy confections and divine cocoas, but the colorful paintings, mugs, even the tables. *Sun–Wed 7:30am–9pm, Thu 7am–10pm, Fri–Sat 7:30am–11pm. \$ = 1529C 14th St. NW (Q St.), 202-387-2626, thecocoagallery.com*

Asia 9 Bar and Lounge* • Penn Quarter • Pan Asian

Penn Quarterites idled past Asia 9 for weeks before it opened, peering through the window, and asking each other for news about the grand opening. That day came on March 14 and the verdict is in: Wow. Forty kinds of sake vie with choices of deep-hued blue, purple, and yellow drinks on the exotic cocktail menu. The cuisine is pan Asian, serving up everything from Japanese dumplings to Singapore fried rice. Dramatic splashes of red, dark wood, and steel accent the expansive 300-seat room. A sushi and oyster bar lies near the entrance and a long green tile bar extends nearly the length of one wall. Make no mistake, though: Asia 9 means to stake out a nightlife niche in this pocket of the Penn Quarter; a VIP lounge is almost complete, with live music entertainment soon to follow. *Sun–Wed 11am–midnight, Thu–Sat 11am–1am. \$ = 915 E St. NW (Ninth St.), 202-629-4355, asianine.com*

Black Squirrel* • Adams Morgan • American

Just when it seemed that Adams Morgan's nonstop party scene had chased away the fine-dining establishments, along comes the Black Squirrel, brandishing a fine-pedigreed chef and a menu of scaled-up American comfort food. Stepping over the threshold are condo-dwellers from the neighborhood as well as cadres of footloose urbanites, both of whom might have resigned themselves to dining on pizza if they hadn't spotted this better prospect. The long, slender room features polished wood floors and a bar, and red walls hung with posters of pop-culture icons. Beer lovers appreciate the Black Squirrel's 50-beer list, including the Belgian Chimay, one of 11 brews on tap. Reservations are accepted for parties of more than six. Diners intending to stop in for dinner and then move on are lingering, thanks to a congenial vibe. The restaurant has also started serving “French tapas” after midnight, to satisfy hungry ramblers anxious to escape Adams Morgan rowdies. *Sun–Tue 5pm–1am, Wed–Thu 5pm–2am, Fri–Sat 5pm–3am. \$ = 2427 18th St. NW (Belmont Rd.), 202-232-1011, blacksqurrelrestaurant.com*