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WEST HOTEL MIAMI

TASTE Spotlight



Breaking Bread

ALBERTO CABRERA'S UNORTHODOX SUB SHOP IS SHAPING LITTLE HAWAII'S CULINARY RESURGENCE ONE SANDWICH AT A TIME. BY CARLA TORRES

Sandwiches are having a moment, so much so that Board + Table chef and owner Alberto Cabrera made them the star of the show at Little Board Cuban Sandwich Co., an unconventional sandwicherie in the heart of Little Havana. "We're focusing on the old-school Cuban classics but adding a present-day American twist," he says. "We're reimagining the sandwich wheel." Cabrera changes up the classic Cuban with pork belly chicharrón instead of sliced pork; his Media Noche is a triple-decker with onions with puerco and mortadella meatloaf. Little Board's menu also profiles non-niño meals like roasted chicken wings with kimchi and Florida honey as well as meaty sandwiches in the form of green paella rolls with crocante cheese frosting, which pairs extremely well with a game of dominos at the nearby backyard patio. 540 SW 12th Ave., Miami, 305-423-2820; littleboard.com

KEEP IT DOWN NOW

WEST HOTEL MIAMI's rooftop lounge and chill-out zone is a must-stop for locals.

WE'RE DRYING UP SOMETHING, a black iron Uncle Tom's, you'll find Rock Bar + Lounge, an ultramodern lounge housed in a shadow spot to let loose and have fun made. Open seven nights a week, Rock offers food from neighboring Bells, craft beer, simple cocktails, and a pool table. "It's like this place because it's off Washington Avenue and off the water," says manager and eighth-generation hotel hostess. "It's quiet." 7401 Pennsylvania Ave., Miami Beach, 786-529-9037; wdor.com



FOOLPROOF

Poof Pizza & Pasta wood-burning oven produces burns over 1,000 and 1,600 degrees of heat. "In the Neapolitan standard [pasta] includes the crustless qualities," says chef and owner Justin Pitt, who prior to opening the Milwaukee eatery was executive sous chef at Restaurant Keith in Brookfield and chef de cuisine Matt Beltram's egg place topped with house-made fennel sausages, scallops, or Parmesan fonduta. Also try the pasta selection, like angel hair with oysters, Calabrian chili, and lemon breadcrumbs; save room, if you can, for the colossal insalata di cipolla (a giant salad of onions). 430 W. Allentown Ave., Milwaukee, 414-262-8600; foolproofpizza.com

Angel hair pasta with oysters, Calabrian chili, and lemon breadcrumbs from Poof Pizza & Pasta

NEW IN TOWN



AW, SHUCKS

"Chefs love eating oysters on their days off," says chef Jamie DeRosa, who won't have to travel far for his bivalve fix, as he's opened Izzy's Fish & Oyster down the street from his Tongue & Cheek. Named after his daughter Isabella, the quaint 40-seater is a tribute to the seafood shacks of eastern Long Island and New England. "Being from Long Island, we knew how important authenticity would be to this kind of concept," he says, a truth evidenced by the Point Judith littleneck steamers or New England clam chowder with house-made oyster crackers. 423 Washington Ave., Miami Beach, 305-397-8843; izzysmiami.com

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VAGABONDING

Cheng, a chef and star of *MasterChef*, is discrepancy about two USC students who opened an illegal, underground supper club restaurant on campus, is at the helm of Vagabond Restaurant, part of the iconic Vegabond Hotel's restoration. Cheng's approach is to eat locally and think globally, using his French and Mexican-Chinese descent as an inspiration for the menu, but adding local ingredients from the area. "I'm not afraid to add a local ingredient, like a plant that grows here, to my dishes," he says. "I'm not afraid to put apples on the menu," he says. Instead, jerk chicken wings smothered over fresh cilantro leaves and served with citrus (Jamaican style) pickled vegetables) pay tribute to Miami's Caribbean influence. 2001 S. Bayshore Dr., Miami, 305-639-6700; vagabond.com