

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

Key to Night+Day Symbols

Restaurants

Singles-friendly

- Communal table
- Food served at bar

(G) Gourmet destination

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

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

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.

pulseguides.com

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Chic D.C. Restaurants

BLT Steak • White House • Steakhouse

It's as if a band of 20-somethings had gotten together and demanded a steakhouse 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 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 (16-th 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 (bar stays open later).* \$\$ 📍 1101 K St. NW (11th St.), 202-408-1717, beckdc.com

Central • Penn Quarter • American-French Bistro

How popular is the brand-new Central? Put it this way: Don't even bother trying to call, 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 and Sat 5:30pm-11pm.* \$\$ 📍 1001 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (10th St.), 202 626 0015, centralmichelrichard.com




D'Acqua • Penn Quarter • Italian

D'Acqua is only a few months old, but its chef partners, Francesco Ricchi and Enzo Febraro, 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




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-length, 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 \(21st St.\)](http://2030 M St. NW (21st St.)), 202-872-8700, hudson-dc.com

Oyamel Cocina Mexicana • Penn Quarter • Mexican




Was there ever any doubt that Jose Andres's 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's 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 7th St. NW \(D St.\)](http://401 7th St. NW (D St.)), 202-628-1005, oyamel.com

Proof* • Penn Quarter • New American

"Proof is in the pudding," "Proof positive," oh yes, Washington wags are having fun spinning the name of DC's latest chic 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 \(G St.\)](http://775 G St. NW (G St.)), 202-737-7663, proofdc.com

The Source • Penn Quarter • Asian




Riding the wave of celebrity cheldom that's taken the Western World by storm, this new 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 proves 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-shaped 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).* Restaurant opens for lunch Feb. 25. \$\$\$    [575 Pennsylvania Ave. NW \(6th St. NW\)](http://575 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (6th St. NW)), 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 through 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-shaped 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 \(21st St.\)](http://2121 P St. NW (21st St.)), 202-956-6650, urbanadc.com

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

Washington's twenty- and thirty-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. *Sun and Tue-Thu 4:30pm-2am, Fri-Sat 4:30pm-3am, Sat-Sun 10am-3pm.* \$    [1940 11th St. NW \(U St. NW\)](http://1940 11th St. NW (U St. NW)), 202-332-WINE, vinotecadc.com

Westend Bistro by Eric Ripert* • West End • American

Frenchman Eric Ripert, full of lip, artfully coiffed, preens from his restaurant's website homepage, but *tant pis*, seldom from the open kitchen of his crackling hot bistro. (Ripert's main gig is cheffing 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 2 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; bar nightly 5:30-11pm.* \$    [1190 22nd St. NW \(M St.\)](http://1190 22nd St. NW (M St.)), 202-974-4900, westendbistrodc.com

Chic D.C. Nightlife

The Park at 14th • Downtown • Lounge

The Park at 14th, with its faux Chihuly chandeliers glittering from within the glass-fronted, 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 danceclub, 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 4 bars, 2 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

Chic D.C. Attractions

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 voila! 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. NW), 202-333-8448, georgetowncupcake.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 7th St. NW (E St. NW), 202-393-1099, crimemuseum.org

Setchi Ecoboutique • Georgetown

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

Hip D.C. 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 i-Pod 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. NW), 202-737-1200 / 800-383-6900, donovanhousedc.com

Hip D.C. Restaurants

ACKC Cocoa Gallery • U Street Corridor • Café

Arty little 20-somethings sit at the few tables in this art gallery/café/chocolates 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. NW), 202-387-2626, thecocoagallery.com

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

Penn Quarterites had been idling past Asia 9 for weeks, 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 (9th St. NW), 202-629-4355, asianine.com

Black Squirrel* • Adams Morgan • American

Just when it seemed that Adams Morgan's non-stop 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 6. 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. NW), 202-232-1011, black-squirrelrestaurant.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 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 recently debuted at the corner of H and 8th St. NW, selling freshmade empanadas to grateful, hungry downtowners. The company expects to roll out another 17 strategically located carts in 2008, each hawking a different fast and fresh food specialty of a local favorite restaurant, like Asian fusion from Teasm. 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](http://dconthefly.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, if you can. *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 D.C. Nightlife

Marvin* • U Street Corridor • Bistro/Lounge

Open since November, 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 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 St. 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 D.C. 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 in September. 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 accompany the wine, for Veritas is a wine bar, pure and simple. Exposed brick, a long bar, and wine bottle displays are key decor 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 D.C. Attractions

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, 2 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 (6th St. NW), 888-639-7386, newseum.org

Classic D.C. 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, those don'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, is thankfully untouched, though won't re-open until mid-2008, when the restaurant debuts. Best for spaciousness and city views are the grand luxe rooms cornering K St. \$\$\$\$+ 923 16th St. NW (K St.), 202-638-2626, stregis.com/DC

Classic D.C. Restaurants

Locanda • Capitol Hill • Italian

It's a sure thing that a dinner at the newcomer 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

Classic D.C. Attractions

Madame Tussauds Washington, DC • 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

The Best Events

artDC • Downtown • Art Show

The Lowdown: Fast on the heels of its smashing first international artfair, artDC's second event promises a wowful encore, this time with special sections on cutting edge works; digital, sound, and mixed media installations; and contemporary and historical women artists. The show displays modern and current art from 80+ of the world's best galleries. Fairgoers get to talk to gallery owners and listen to scholar and art professional speakers and, if so moved, to purchase one of the hundreds of artworks up for sale. A VIP preview the night before the official opening is the hot ticket here: \$100 each and open to the public.

When and How Much: May 16-18, 2008. *Fri-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm.* \$ Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, NW (7th St.), 866-727-7953, dc-artfair.com

Duke Ellington Jazz Festival • Citywide

The Lowdown: This tribute to the Duke does the hometown hero proud. Growing bigger and better with each iteration, the annual event in 2007 celebrated the 90th birthday of Dizzy Gillespie by staging more than 100 performances at jazz clubs, concert halls, universities, the National Mall, and other sites. Expect the likes of Roy Hargrove, Flora Purim, and Slide Hampton playing to sold-out crowds. Any self-respecting jazz lover already has this event marked on the calendar.

When and How Much: For nine days in mid-September. Some events are free; otherwise admission ranges from \$15 to \$25. *Most are evening events; exact times vary by venue.* Various venues around town, including jazz clubs and the National Mall

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.

Closures (please make a note in your Black Book.)

Hotels

The Jefferson (closed until late 2008), p.122

Restaurants

Agua Ardiente, p.60

Columbia, p.190

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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 10 p.m. 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 pulseguides.com

