

The Top 50 Noteworthy Additions plus Changes and Closures

from publication date through June 30, 2010

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

Key to Night+Day Symbols

Restaurants

Singles-friendly

Communal table

Food served at bar

(G) Gourmet destination

Venues followed by an asterisk (*) 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

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Hot & Cool Toronto Hotels

Thompson Hotel • Entertainment District • Trendy (102 rms)

This trendy U.S.-based hotel chain makes its first step into Canada with a new locale on the western edge of the King West entertainment district. Although the dust has barely settled, the talk of the town is the hotel's VIP rooftop patio area, with eastern views of the skyline and an infinity pool, which no doubt will be as much a lure to trendy 30-something guests as the rooms designed by local designer Roy Banse. Expect sleek modern interiors, with unique photographic and modern art, as well as a private screening room that will be the hot spot come September's TIFF. This will be the first Canadian locale of a Scarpetta resto by chef Scott Conant in July, a 24-hour modern diner open by the end of June, and fashionista must-have Wabora Sushi, slated for mid-August. \$\$\$\$ 550 Wellington St. W. (King St.), 416-640-7778 / 888-550-8368, thompsonhotels.com/hotels/toronto/

Hot & Cool Toronto Restaurants

BerBer Lounge • Downtown/Yonge • North African

A unique restaurant based on traditional North African culture, this subterranean resto welcomes patrons with jewel tones, oversize lanterns, and spicy atmosphere. Seating areas are divided by carved wood screens, allowing groups of fashionable twenty- and thirty-somethings from nearby media and advertising offices to talk shop privately on Friday nights as they recline on low couches, sharing platters of grilled meats, vegetables, and couscous, and sipping on mint- and cummin-laced Moroccan cocktails. Later in the evening, club kids sidle up to the belly dancer and socialize in the bar area as they shake it up with '80s pop and funk tunes from DJ Michael Williams. *Thu-Sat 5pm-2am.* \$\$  49 Front St. E. (Church St.), 416-860-9000, berberlounge.ca

Calisto • Little Italy • Italian

The little sister of neighborhood resto Vivoli, Calisto aims to mix up an Italian restaurant, focusing on central Italian cuisine, and a hip lounge, all housed in a décor described as cave dining. Twenty-somethings will appreciate the early- and late-evening DJ spinning the latest club sounds as they sip prosecco and snack on antipasti along the marble bar, while gourmands will be happy to explore the mix of Italian dishes, inspired by locally sourced and seasonal additions, to the sounds of live blues and jazz on weekends. *Daily noon-2am.* \$\$  647 College St. (Grace St.), 647-351-7575

Ciao Wine Bar • Bloor/Yorkville • Italian

This upscale wine bar in the trendy Yorkville area embraces Italian style with its traditional menu of antipasti, pasta, insalate, risotto, and pizza. With 8,000 square feet and three levels, this is the hot new spot for fashionable twenty- and thirty-somethings to indulge in carbs and to be seen among the models, actors and trendy types. The main level is a contemporary environment with access to a street-front patio, while the prime lower-level real estate in the rustic wine cellar and pizza bar is updated Italian trattoria minus the dusty wine-bottle candle-

holders. A post-work crowd makes Thursdays especially popular. *Mon–Wed 11:30am–midnight, Thu–Sat 11:30am–2am, Sun 11:30am–midnight.* \$\$\$ [☎ 133 Yorkville Ave. \(Avenue Rd.\), 416-925-2143, ciaowinebar.com](#)

Embrujo Flamenco • Greektown • Spanish (G)

Until Embrujo Flamenco came on the scene, classical Spanish cuisine was missing from the Toronto restaurant landscape. Embrujo Flamenco serves tapas and traditional dishes with a modern twist, sourcing many ingredients from Spain and offering an extensive wine cellar featuring Spanish faves—foodies will revel in the wide selection of delicacies. The modern Spanish décor has historical influences with the touches of red, ironwork, and stylized art. Trendy types will love the people-watching from the streetfront patio as they sip bubbly cava, and will be in line for the wine and tapas bar to open next month. When the flamenco shows happen Thu–Sat nights, any seat becomes front row. The restaurant will be opening a wine and tapas bar soon—expect the trendsters to line up. *Mon–Thu 6pm–2am, Fri 5pm–2am, Sat–Sun 11am–2pm, 5pm–midnight.* \$\$\$ [☎ 97 Danforth Ave. \(Broadview Ave.\), 416-778-0007, embrujoflamenco.com](#)

The Kitchen • West Queen West • International

Strategically located between The Drake and The Gladstone, this dining lounge appeals to trendy types with gold cards in their wallets. Chef Olivia Bolano's resume includes Bistro 990 and Rosewater Supper Club, and she provides an eclectic selection of tasting plates, such as tempura black cod, Australian rack of lamb, barbecue beef ribs, and sashimi. Wet your whistle with the Eurocentric wine list (including lots of champagne), and then head downstairs to the bar for post-dinner cocktails with the fashion-forward crowd. *Tue–Wed and Sun 9pm–2am, Thu–Sat 6pm–2am, Sun 9pm–2am.* \$ [☎ 1186 Queen St. W. \(Northcote St.\), 416-536-7700, thekitchenonqueenwest.com](#)

Koko! • Bloor/Yorkville • Korean

Communal dining and shared plates come to Yorkville in this tiny, elegant boîte. Sparsely decorated with an Asian aesthetic, the intimate space draws gourmands who dine on modern Korean cuisine with a dash of Japanese flavor. Seafood lovers are delighted by chef Shin Aoyama's new interpretations: torched butterfish with a tamari-lemon sauce, Tunisian sea bream sashimi, and lean yellowfin tuna paired with spicy orange kimchi mayo. Don't feel like eating fish today? Save room for the Korean BBQ. Squeeze in for lunch during the week or for week-end dinners; make reservations for the latter or expect to be disappointed. *Tue–Sat 11am–3pm and 5–11pm.* \$\$\$ [☎ 81 Yorkville Ave. \(Bellair St.\), 416-850-6135, kokoreastaurant.ca](#)

La Perla Bar and Cantina • Queen Street • Mexican

A relaxed traditional cantina, this new second-story bar on Queen Street West is hoping to convince the late-night crowd that they should be indulging in Mexican delicacies such as tortas (sandwiches with roast lamb or pulled pork) and Baja fish tacos, as well as a unique list of Mexican beers and 100 percent pure agave tequilas. Cool kids with a palate for spicy flavors welcome the patio space as much as the specialty oyster offerings in this laid-back hangout, where conversation—and not the DJ—is king. *Thu–Sat 10pm–2am.* \$\$\$ [☎ 783 Queen St. W. \(Bathurst St.\), 416-366-2855, milagrorestaurant.com](#)

Laide Lounge* • Entertainment District • Tapas

From the plaster cast nudes in the entry, to the booth areas with privacy curtains, this tapas and cocktail lounge is all about putting you in the hooking-up frame of mind. Soft couches and generous seating areas create many spaces to cuddle up and chat with your beloved or scope out someone new. Savory and spicy finger foods match well with house cocktails such as the Bukkake, Woody Woodpecker, or Sheriff's Star. Sultry and sexy 20-somethings are happily comparing their Baby Phat and Parasuco purchases as they eye each other up. *Tue–Sat 7pm–2am.* \$\$\$ [☎ 138 Adelaide St. E. \(Jarvis St.\), 416-850-2726, laide.ca](#)

Merci Mon Ami Sandwich Shop • Parkdale • French

Happily part of the redevelopment of Liberty Village, this itty-bitty breakfast and lunch spot serves up morning protein shakes and strong espresso to trendy locals. When high noon hits, the sophisticated French-style baguette sandwiches take center stage, luring in staff from neighborhood boutiques and design agencies. Devotees line up for the roast beef baguette sandwich, dressed up with sautéed mushrooms, caramelized onions, garlic aioli, Dijon mustard, and cheese. In addition to savoring other specialty sandwiches (honey garlic chicken, eggplant Parmesan, roasted turkey with homemade stuffing), stressed-out ad execs and other diners can indulge in a soup du jour, salads, smoothies, and, of course, more coffee to go. *Mon–Fri 8am–3pm.* \$ [☎ 171 E. Liberty St., #107 \(Atlantic Ave.\), 647-436-3832, mercimonami.ca](#)

Nyood West • West Queen West • Mediterranean (G)

This flamboyant restaurant rivals its upscale patrons with opulent style. Think oversize vintage lighting, textured wallpaper, and sexy, contemporary furniture in sultry shades of black, white, gray, and pale green. Located in the trendy neighborhood best known for The Drake Hotel, this resto aims to lure in the beautiful people and convince them to savor Mediterranean tapas without forgoing their devotion to the diet du jour. Ordering small plates gives diners a little taste of au courant fish, grilled vegetables, and meats, influenced by the styles of Italy, Spain, Morocco, and France with a distinct dash of Caribbean, thanks to chef Roger Mooking, who is from the islands. *Mon–Sat 6pm–close.* \$\$ [☎ 1096 Queen St. W. \(Dovercourt Rd.\), 416-466-1888, nyood.ca](#)

Oasi • West Queen West • Italian (G)

Located just off the West Queen Street West strip, this trendy club and resto lures in the fashionistas and their followers with a sexy bar area and modern dining room. The menu is largely Italian with Portuguese influences—braised lentil and lamb shank, pasta pomodoro, wild goat cheese and onion frittata, and grilled seafood peperonata. A quick stop in France for dessert with the tarte au citron and the maple bombe (a maple soufflé with hazelnut praline) will encourage those who are always looking for the next best thing to stop and spend some time here. *Tue–Fri noon–10pm, Sat 5–10pm.* \$\$\$ [☎ 99 Sudbury St. \(Dovercourt Rd.\), 416-849-6567, theoasi.com](#)

Paramour • Queen Street • Canadian

Located on the trendy Ossington Avenue strip north of Queen Street West, this sexy resto is a definite date place, mixing velvet curtains, elegant banquettes, dark pink Art Deco chairs, and glamorous black-and-white photographs. The back room, designed in bold black and white, provides a communal table, but

Paramour's ambience is decidedly romantic, with low lighting, au courant music, and savory appetizers to share. The 20- and 30-something couples dine on a locally sourced, Euro-inspired menu, featuring tasty treats such as mushroom and almond terrine and pan-seared yellow perch with tomato and Niçoise olive confit. *Tue–Sun 6–11:30pm*. \$\$\$ 📍 94 Ossington Ave. (Queen St. W.), 416-953-2356, paramourdining.com

The Roosevelt Room • Entertainment District • Continental (G)

Modeled after the Art Deco vaudeville clubs, this modern supper club offers gourmet dining, burlesque shows, au courant DJs, and a regular soundtrack of 1920s jazz. Courtesy of executive chef Trevor Wilkinson—of Trevor Kitchen and Bar—the menu is modern French cuisine (seared duck, foie gras, charcuterie) paired with locally sourced seasonal ingredients. Add to that a martini menu inspired by old-school spirits and an impressive champagne selection, and The Roosevelt Room is the perfect place to savor with your most fashionable friends. *Tue–Sat 5pm–2am*. \$\$\$ 📍 2 Drummond Place (Adelaide St. W.), 416-599-9000, therooseveltroom.ca

Table 17 • Leslieville/Riverdale • Mediterranean (G)

Three small rooms decorated simply and sparsely help focus the knowledgeable East End crowd on the extensive Euro wine list, many by the glass, allowing them to choose from Spanish, Italian, and French offerings. Diners will appreciate the classic rock albums playing in the background as much as the sophisticated entrées, definitely geared toward those who like a little adventure with their ingredients and want to be surrounded by upscale neighbors who are in on the secret: This stretch is where all the cool kids go now. Destination mains include organic black cod in shiitake mushroom broth with snap peas and cauliflower, and black truffle ravioli. *Mon 5:30pm–close, Tue–Fri 11:30am–2:30pm and 5:30pm–close, Sat–Sun 10:30am–2:30pm and 5:30pm–close*. \$\$ 📍 782 Queen St. E. (Broadview Ave.), 416-519-1851, table17.ca

Hot & Cool Toronto Nightlife

Barchef • Queen Street • Lounge

With a focus on bringing back cocktail culture, Barchef is an elegant little boîte that looks to be creative in the offerings on its drinks menu—choose from the sweet, savory, sour, or molecular list and jangle your taste buds with a burnt Chartreuse, a Peking duck, or a vanilla crème froth. Patrons run the gamut from the Michael Buble imitators to the cool kids looking for a slice of downtown before going to the clubs. Nibble on savories such as beef tartare or scallop ceviche, which will lead you to choose your next drink. *Tue–Sun 5:30pm–close*. 📍 472 Queen St. W. (Augusta Ave.), 416-868-4800, barcheftoronto.com

Dolce Social Ballroom • Entertainment District • Nightclub

A new entry to the Entertainment District, this all-the-rage club has the standard trappings of premium luxury, from the elegant décor—to the color palette of golds and reds and sumptuous booths for people-watching—to the guest list and bottle service. There's also a 2,000-square-foot rooftop patio for open-air mingling in warmer months. Friday nights before midnight the club is women-only, so stylish guys looking to socialize with models, club-goers, and fashion-

istas should show up around 12:30am. Come Saturday, the clientele shifts to an up-market 20-something crowd, with DJ-obsessed locals crowding the space to experience the eclectic musical offerings. *Thu–Sat 10pm–3am*. ☎ 647 King St. W. (Bathurst St.), 416-361-9111, dolcesocial.com

Jezebel Burlesque • West Queen West • Cabaret

The development of the Ossington Street strip has focused mainly on the cafe and boutique scene. With its old-school burlesque shows, Jezebel adds some much-needed club flavor to the area. The space features silvery banquettes, two elegant marble bar areas, and royal purple velvet drapes throughout, while a regular troupe of dancers, entertainers, and the occasional featured performer from Cirque du Soleil add a touch of the erotic and the unpredictable to any evening. Weekly dance nights showcase the latest tunes from pop and hip-hop. *Wed–Sun 10pm–2am*. ☎ 227 Ossington Ave. (Dundas St. W.), 416-531-7111, jezabeltoronto.com

Laide Lounge* • Entertainment District • Lounge

A sexy spot for young things to meet up and hook up, this comfortable lounge definitely induces one to linger. There's an appetizer menu meant to be shared and drinks such as the Bukkake, the John, and the Flying Camel meant to titillate and inspire. Check your inhibitions at the door. *Tue–Sat 7pm–2am*. 📍 138 Adelaide St. E. (Jarvis St.), 416-850-2726, laide.ca

Reign • Entertainment District • Nightclub

Formerly the home of Budo Liquid Theatre, this club has shed its Asian influences (going for premium beer and classic cocktails instead of fruity martinis), has a door policy that looks for the prettiest girls and boys instead of just adhering to the guest list VIPs, and encourages lounging and conversation on its quieter second floor. The main floor, with red walls and low-lit chandeliers, is a hotbed of hotties dancing to the latest from Rihanna and Akon as they watch the door to see who will be admitted next. Friday night may be the longest lineup, but it's the best night to look for your king or queen. *Thu–Sat 9:30pm–3am*. ☎ 137 Peter St. (Queen St. W.), 416-593-1550, reigntoronto.com

Samovar • Leslieville/Riverdale • Lounge

Located on the top floor of the historic Winchester Hotel in Cabbagetown, Samovar is the third Russian bar opened by local Rumen Dimitroff (who also launched Pravda and owns Rasputin Vodka Bar). Samovar benefits from its old-world roots—the original long mahogany bar is a perfect centerpiece for the fashionable to belly up and enjoy vodka, absinthe, champagne, and caviar. The salty charcuterie options work well with the drinks menu. True enthusiasts can toast and taste fine vodkas of the motherland in the walk-in freezer, for which fur coats and boots are provided. *Thu–Sat 7pm–2am*. 📍 51 Winchester St. (Parliament St.), 416-925-4555, samovarroom.com

Strange Love • Little Italy • Bar

This is the space vacated by China Doll, and it's the current go-to spot for the stylish soon-to-be-out-of-university crowd who can't yet afford to get into the über-trendy clubs of Yorkville and King Street West. Still, after their tequila and lemon drop shots, revelers crush the bar area before heading to the dance floor to sway to the latest mixes by DJs who favor Kanye and Rihanna, with a dash of Killers. Although the doormen exude club district authority, there isn't a guest

list policy, and the 20-something crowd is populated mainly by those who know the employees. *Wed 9pm–2am, Thu–Sat 6pm–2am.* ☰ 587 College St. (Clinton St.), 416-588-7625, strangelove.ca

Tattoo Rock Parlour • Queen Street • Bar

The most recent creation of nightclub kings The Liberty Group capitalizes on the Queen Street West strip's stereotypical rock fan—someone with multiple tattoos dressed in leather and chains, who isn't likely to be seen in the daylight. DJs spin classic and contemporary rock music, and avoid electronica, house, and anything vaguely akin to pop music. With an in-house tattoo shop, groupie wannabes can contemplate the next addition to their personal body art collection. The basement's low ceilings and fireplace are conducive to convincing that certain band member that you're the one. *Tue–Sat 5pm–2am.* ☰ 567 Queen St. W. (Augusta Ave.), 416-703-5488, tattoorockparlour.com

Hot & Cool Toronto Attractions

Art Gallery of Ontario • Chinatown • Art Gallery

One of North America's largest art museums, this art gallery has undergone a face-lift, courtesy of well-known architect (and hometown boy) Frank Gehry. After 10 years of planning and three years of construction, the revitalized gallery's first noticeable change is the entrance—a glass and Douglas fir façade that is skeletal yet inviting in its rawness. Inside, the galleries have more natural light, and many items that have been in storage are now on permanent display. Classic and contemporary Canadian artists are now sharing space with European Impressionist masters. The contemporary galleries are spaciouly designed, while the classic galleries are intimate areas that combine collections from the Medieval Age to the 19th century. *Tue and Sat–Sun 10am–5:30pm, Wed–Fri 10am–8:30pm.* \$ 317 Dundas St. W. (McCaul St.), 416-979-6648, ago.net

Chasse Gardée • West Queen West • Store

With a name that translates from the French as “hunting ground,” Daniela Bosco's boutique is a well-chosen selection of accessories from avant-garde labels such as Belstaff, Hyde SK, Tiger of Sweden, and Karen Walker. Look for strappy shoes, boots, jewelry, and handbags, decorating the walls of this spare space with distinctive décor touches that include a *Wallpaper* magazine spread. Definitely for the girl who wants to set the trend, not follow what H&M, Zara, and the fashion pages say is the “it” item for the season. *Mon–Fri 11am–7pm, Sat 11am–6pm.* 1084 Queen St. W. (Dovercourt Rd.), 416-901-9613, chassegardee.com

Hip Toronto Restaurants

Cafe Madrid Tapas Bar • Greektown • Spanish (G)

The first traditional Spanish tapas bar in Toronto, located in the lower floor of Embujo Flamenco, offers the latest trends in Spanish cuisine. The owners wanted to bring a true flavor of Spanish culture to their tapas bar, and have spent months matching traditional tapas selections with local and seasonal influences.

Trendy musicians and hip gourmands will definitely indulge in the variety of Spanish wines offered to pair with the spicy and salty treats. *Fri–Sat 5pm–2am.* \$ ☰ 97 Danforth Ave. (Broadview), 416-778-0007, embujoflamenco.com

Cowbell • West Queen West • French (G)

Inspired by the classic French bistro, the owners of this resto bring in local flavor by sourcing menu ingredients as close as possible to the city. The menu changes daily, based on what has come to the chef's attention that day, though rest assured there will be beef, pork, and duck in various preparations. Definitely indulge in the freshly made baguette and kitchen-churned butter, and the selection of Niagara and Prince Edward County wines. Local artists, as well as farmers, are showcased in the restaurant, and “100-Mile Diet” devotees should check online for Farmer Nights, on which the restaurant brings in the producers to discuss their bounty. *Tue–Thu 5–10pm, Fri–Sat 5–11pm.* \$\$\$ ☰ 1564 Queen St. W. (Dowling Ave.), 416-849-1095, cowbellrestaurant.ca

Foxley Bistro • West Queen West • Asian

This long narrow space is simply decorated, with the red brick walls and worn wood floors creating a cozy atmosphere in which diners can focus on the Asian fusion cuisine. The chef is a former sushi chef, and now matches a Japanese aesthetic with Mediterranean and Latin influences. The daily ceviche is a definite must-have, and the servers smartly recommend sharing the tapas-style menu, ordering two or three offerings from the fish- and seafood-focused list. Tasty treats such as sautéed Asian greens, roasted tofu with spicy miso, and spicy crispy shrimp with jalapeño and garlic are among the top choices. *Mon–Sat 6–11pm.* \$\$\$ ☰ 207 Ossington Ave. (Dundas St. W.), 416-534-8520, foxleybistro.com

The Harbord Room • Little Italy • Canadian

A newcomer into the Harbord and Spadina resto area, this long, narrow space is filled with rustic wood furniture, leather chairs, and marble-topped counters. It resembles its owners' other hot spot, Czechoski, with a relaxed yet attentive staff. Grad students who don't want to venture south to busy Queen West will appreciate the '60s to '80s music, which Nick Hornby would approve of, as well as the meant-for-sharing selections of grilled calamari and spicy chorizo, and hefty portions of veggie-laden risotto and duck confit. *Mon 6–10:30pm, Tue 6–11pm, Wed–Thu 6–11:30pm, Fri–Sat 6pm–midnight, Sun 11am–2:30pm and 6–11pm.* \$\$\$ ☰ 89 Harbord St. (Spadina Ave.), 416-962-8989, theharbordroom.com

Joy Bistro • Leslieville/Riverdale • International

This bistro has been completely revamped, no doubt influenced by the increasing number of competitors on the block. With multiple patios and a cozy main-floor space, as well as the Overjoy Lounge for cocktails, the bistro is attracting 30-somethings who want to avoid downtown and stay on the east side. Savor seasonal selections with the daily chef's prix fixe, as he relies heavily on Rowe Farms (a neighborhood natural butcher) for his meats; consider the grilled chicken papardelle, the classic steak frites, or the sublime maple-roasted butternut-squash risotto. *Mon–Fri 11:30am–close, Sat–Sun 8am–close.* \$\$ ☰ 884 Queen St. E. (Logan Ave.), 416-465-8855, joybistro.com

L.A.B. • Little Italy • Molecular Gastronomy (G)

Food gourmands looking for a challenge will appreciate the creations of chefs Howard Dubrovsky and Chris Scott as they unveil their experimental efforts in

molecular gastronomy and vegetarian cuisine. From faux calamari to sweet potato pierogies, the chefs dish out delectable offerings that celebrate being a herbivore. But carnivores, don't despair—there's bison carpaccio and a sous-vide eight-hour-cooked strip loin on offer, too. It's no surprise that foodies are lining up for the 30 seats to see what's next. *Tue–Sun 6–11pm*. \$\$ 📍 651 College St. (Grace St.), 416-551-5025, labrestaurant.com

Lady Marmalade • Leslieville/Riverdale • Diner

Everyone loves brunch—and Lady Marmalade serves it up all day in the burgeoning Leslieville restaurant row. Owner David Cherry decided to return to his hometown of Toronto to open this second location of the popular diner, which originated in Victoria, B.C. On the menu are traditional morning faves with Cherry's own twist: Brie, avocado, and bacon eggs Bennie, as well as good morning and good afternoon poutine—all starring organic eggs from Rowe Farms and fresh baked goods from St. John's Bakery. All this goodness keeps the artsy local residents and film folks in regular attendance. *Tue–Fri 8am–4pm, Sat–Sun 8am–3pm*. \$ = 898 Queen Street E. (Carlaw Ave.), 647-351-7645, ladymarmalade.ca

Lil' Baci • Leslieville/Riverdale • Italian (G)

This southern Italian restaurant offers daily antipasti and cheese selections and rotating choices of pasta, fish, and meat, all influenced by local and seasonal ingredients. With a nod to healthy living, such as spelt and kamut options for pizza, this tiled restaurant is as fun a spot for 30-somethings who want to indulge in exquisite gnocchi as for kids who want noodles and ragu. Wine offerings are strictly from the Old Country, including bottles from Sicily and Puglia. *Mon–Fri 11am–2pm and 5–10pm, Sat–Sun 11am–3pm and 5–10pm*. \$ 📍 892 Queen St. E. (Logan Ave.), 416-465-4888, lilbaci.com

Marinella • Little Italy • Italian

Marinella was established further downtown, but with condos taking up all the space, the owners took the opportunity to find a more modern, sleek outpost, finding prime real estate in the heart of Little Italy. The classic Italian food served here is still very simple: fresh pastas, seasonal ingredients, and a menu featuring pizza, meat, and traditional dishes such as osso bucco, stewed salt cod, and provimi veal. No surprises or inventive gestures, but the pleasure of having the owner's other and brother cook for you is well worth a stop while in the 'hood—and many locals are happy to oblige. *Daily 4:30pm–midnight*. \$\$ 📍 640 College St. (Grace St.), 416-348-9200

Osteria Ciceri e Trià • Queen Street • Italian

After the development of the Terroni chain, owner Cosimo Mammoliti wanted to ensure that this little space became its own unique dining experience, more like an Italian-style tavern than the group's other upscale holdings. Perfect for execs who want to take a long lunch, this cozy resto offers up simple Italian fare—antipasti, pasta, primi—but no pizza. It's also ideal for a small group who wants to share—diners can choose from the multicourse combinations, or opt for à la carte selections, including a rice terrine with mussels and potatoes and polpettone stuffed with ham and provolone. Definitely leave room for dolci! *Mon–Sat 11:30am–10:30pm*. \$\$ 📍 106 Victoria St. (Queen St. E.), 416-955-0258

Pic Nic • Leslieville/Riverdale • Italian

With a sleek interior of wood and stone, Pic Nic is another addition to the burgeoning Queen and Broadview dining area. Pic Nic hopes to lure the foodie crowd with a wine list from suppliers not found on local LCBO shelves, and with artisan cheeses from Quebec and France. Chef Daniel Usher's menu also reflects the season and what's available locally, and it changes daily. An extensive selection of cheeses, cold meats, and vegetables allows diners to choose their faves and create their own platters as a starter before indulging in the daily offerings. *Mon–Wed 5–11pm, Thu 4–11pm, Fri 4pm–midnight, Sat 5pm–midnight, Sun 5–9pm*. \$ = 747 Queen St. E. (Broadview Ave.), 647-435-5298, picnicwinebar.com

Pizzeria Libretto • Little Italy • Italian

Forget the quick take-out pizza that has fueled you since college—prepare yourself for authenticity. This pizzeria is all about natural ingredients, in traditional Neapolitan style: San Marzano tomatoes, fiore di latte mozzarella, and dough made from organic stone-ground flour. Baked at 900 degrees Centigrade for a quick-blistered crispy and chewy crust, pizza is the mainstay offering (with 14 topping options), accompanied by traditional Italian appetizers, such as simple salads and bruschetta made from locally sourced ingredients. Daily specials feature pasta, but it's really all about the pizza. The raucous environment is filled with unpretentious, post-work 30-somethings, who appreciate the down-to-earth realness. *Daily 5–11pm*. \$ 📍 221 Ossington Ave. (Dundas St. W.), 416-532-8000, pizzerialibretto.com

Ruby WatchCo • Leslieville/Riverdale • Canadian (G)

The latest creation of popular chef Lynn Crawford, Ruby WatchCo showcases the best of local and seasonal Canadian cuisine for the slow food crowd. Crawford revels in supporting local farmers and injecting unique flavors for the gourmands, who will happily make the trek to this neighborhood resto. The modern décor, highlighted with select vintage pieces, matches the cool crowd of film and media types, who are happy to book weekly visits to indulge in an ever-changing menu. *Tue–Sat 5:30–10:30pm*. \$\$ 📍 730 Queen St. E. (Broadview Ave.), 416-465-0100, rubywatchco.ca

School Bakery and Cafe • Parkdale • Cafe

Chef Brad Moore took an existing space in Liberty Village and made it the go-to destination for the neighborhood's offices filled with design, film, and ad creatives. Offering breakfast and lunch, Moore went with the simple design concept of a classroom—blackboards, globes, books, and well-placed graffiti—to create a sleek environment for serving up hearty fare. From homemade pastries to creative sandwiches, salads, and crispy French fries, School offers up cafeteria food that is tasty and distinct. Definitely indulge in the corn chili, roast beef, and melted onion sandwich, or the chicken and chips. *Mon–Fri 8am–7pm, Sat–Sun 10am–4pm*. \$ = 70 Fraser Ave. (King St. W.), 416-588-0005, sbcto.com

Sidecar • Little Italy • International (G)

Inspired by his former boss, chef Mark MacEwan, Bill Sweete focuses on fresh ingredients, simple preparations, and a concise menu for his candlelit dining room. From a Caesar salad with shaved Parmesan and crisp pancetta, to crem-

ini mushroom soup with Dijon mustard, to a sublime red snapper ceviche, Sidecar has the market cornered in classic tastes. Sweete also focuses on classics for his mains: lamb rib eye, spring-pea risotto, and pan-seared sea bass are beautifully plated. Diners here are looking for simple classic cooking but don't want to head uptown to find it. *Mon–Sun 5–10pm (bar open later)*. \$\$\$ [B](#) 577 College St. (Manning Ave.), 416-536-7000, [sidecarrestaurant.ca](#)

Vdara Restaurant • West Queen West • Canadian

Self-proclaimed as “upper bohemian” in style, this eclectic dining establishment embraces the trend of local sourcing and using seasonal ingredients, as well as borrowing influences from around the world. Examples include soy beef carpaccio, Quebec duck empanadas, beef ribs on basmati with edamame, and braised Alberta lamb with rapini. Proud of Queen Street West's boho past, diners are a mix of artsy condo dwellers and slow-food devotees. Black-and-white photos line the otherwise unadorned walls. *Mon–Wed 11am–11pm, Thu–Fri 11am–2am, Sat 10am–2am, Sun 10am–11pm*. \$ [B](#) 735 Queen St. W. (Palmerston Ave.), 416-868-3272, [vdararestaurant.com](#)

Hip Toronto Nightlife

Double Deuce Saloon • West Queen West • Bar

Joining the trendy stretch between The Drake Hotel and The Gladstone Hotel, this upscale dive bar is a perfect spot for after-work drinks or late-night libations midweek. The relaxed, low-lit space draws a laid-back crowd of thirty-some-things who like the DJ's retro tunes as much as the wide selection of Canadian and European beers. Join locals debating their favorite sports team or the local art scene at the long maple bar, or order tasty sandwiches and snacks (fresh guacamole, salsas, and pâté), courtesy of Harbord Room chef Cory Vitiello. *Tue–Sun 7pm–2am*. [B](#) 1168 Queen St. W. (Northcote Ave.), 416-533-7258

Rasputin Vodka Bar • Leslieville/Riverdale • Bar

East Enders are loving the development of their strip, from concept restaurants to specialty boutiques. Locals are now happy to have a few nightspots, too, and Rasputin fits the bill. Baroque-style couches and chairs encourage political discussions, especially fueled by the extensive range of vodkas available. The menu focuses on Russian-style noshing (caviar, smoked fish, and homemade sandwiches), and revelers should indulge in the Russian roulette, a flight of three Russian vodkas. *Tue–Wed 6pm–midnight, Thu–Fri 6pm–2am, Sat 7pm–2am*. [B](#) 730 Queen St. E. (Broadview Ave.), 416-469-3737, [rasputinvodkabar.com](#)

Reposado • Little Italy • Bar

Located south of the Little Italy strip, Reposado focuses on the heady liquor from south of the border: tequila. Don't look for body shots and slammers here; owners Sandy and Catherine MacFadyen want you to sample, savor, and sip, with margaritas and cocktails inspired by the 100 percent agave liquor. There's a selection of over 30 tequilas at their long, dark wood and brick bar. Nosh on liquor-inspired tapas, such as tequila-cured salmon, or comfort food (think homemade potato chips with onion dip). Music options are eclectic—from jazz and swing to DJ house beats and classic rock 'n' roll. *Mon–Sat 8pm–2am*. [B](#) 136 Ossington Ave. (Queen St. W.), 416-532-6474, [reposadobar.com](#)

Swirl Wine Bar • Leslieville/Riverdale • Wine Bar

Hidden on a second floor, this wee boîte feels like a friend's house party, with eclectic décor sourced from local vintage shops and friendly faces from the area. A wide selection of old- and new-world wines in the \$25 to \$65 range are on offer, as well as tasty accompaniments (marinated goat cheese, charcuterie, pâté) served in mason jars from the favorite neighborhood gourmet shop, the Leslieville Cheese Boutique. Simple and intimate, Swirl is the new secret spot for the local creative community to meet up and kick back postproduction. *Tue–Thu 5pm–midnight, Fri–Sat 5pm–2am*. [B](#) 946 1/2 Queen St. E. (Carlaw Ave.), 647-351-5453, [swirltoronto.com](#)

Classic Toronto Restaurants

Cava Restaurant • Uptown • Spanish (G)

The food-obsessed are flocking uptown to this Spanish resto, a rarity in this city dominated by Italian and Asian cuisines. Start with papas fritas, pinchos of avocado and Avruga, tortilla and lime soup, or house-smoked Spanish mackerel. Other temptations include sardines two ways, clams with chorizo, and boneless quail stuffed with smoked chicken and served with Moorish-style spinach. The crispy pork belly with fresh favas, cipollini, and zucchini is a destination dish. Foodies, make your reservations now. *Daily 5–10pm*. \$ [B](#) 1560 Yonge St. (Heath St. E.), 416-979-9918, [cavarestaurant.ca](#)

The Citizen • Leslieville/Riverdale • French (G)

This petite boîte belies the hip neighborhood factor by offering classic and nouveau French cuisine (with North African influences), balancing old and new traditions. The 30-plus crowd is looking for an elegant meal in a venerable setting, or a romantic dinner for two. The chocolate-brown and brick décor of this bistro is a simple backdrop, while the menu sports whimsical descriptions of each section, such as “Mom, I'm Hungry” for appetizers. There's a decent wine selection, but the main beverage draw is the huge selection of beers, many of them local and many on tap. *Mon–Thu 5–10pm, Fri–Sat 5–11pm*. \$\$\$ [B](#) 730 Queen St. E. (Broadview Ave.), 416-465-0100

Gilead Café • St. Lawrence • Canadian

Chef Jamie Kennedy, best known for his devotion to locally and seasonally sourced ingredients, opened this simple cafe with terrazzo floors, white walls, and bare wood tables. Walls are lined with mason jars filled with the previous season's bounty, but these are for the kitchen, not for sale. It's crowded with locals who are true believers in Kennedy's style of simple pastries, and the breakfast and lunch specials are made with freshly baked bread and influenced by the local market's bounty, such as local Cumbrae beef and Kennedy's own pickles, onion jam, and blue cheese. A deli counter offers up charcuterie options from local purveyors, and the famous Yukon Gold fries are always on the menu. *Mon–Fri 8am–6pm, Sat–Sun 8am–4pm*. \$\$\$ [B](#) 4 Gilead Pl. (Eastern Ave.), 647-288-0680, [gileadcafe.ca](#)

Loire Casual Gourmet • Little Italy • French (G)

Executive chef Jean-Charles Dupoire and sommelier Sylvain Brissonnet waited 10 years to realize their dream of their own restaurant, named for the region of France where they grew up. In a consciously casual atmosphere, the kitchen turns out deceptively simple dishes. Start with roasted pistachio, goat cheese, and arugula salad; curried mussels with merguez sausage; or roasted butternut squash soup with crème fraîche. Then choose among inventive mains such as roasted skate wing with celeriac and rutabaga purée, and tagliatelle with truffle oil-scented chicken thighs. Pairing its food with a focused list of French and Ontario vintages, this petite resto gives you a loving taste of small-town France. *Tue–Fri noon–2:30pm and 5:30–10pm, Sat–Sun 5:30–10pm.* \$\$\$ ☐ 119 Harbord St. (Major St.), 416-850-8330, loirerestaurant.ca

Milagro Restaurante y Cantina • Entertainment District • Mexican (G)

This cantina, dressed for fun with its bright colors, terra-cotta tiles, and Mexican art and accessories, focuses on classic dishes such as sopa de tortilla Azteca (tomato soup with avocado) and pollo con mole poblano (chicken with mole sauce). After a business dinner or family birthday, choose one of the double-distilled anejo (aged) tequilas from the extensive list or a capuchino con cajeta (espresso with caramel). Service is stellar for such a casual dining spot. *Mon–Thu 11:30am–10pm, Fri–Sat 11:30am–11pm.* \$\$\$ ☐ 5 Mercer St. (John St.), 416-850-2855, milagrorestaurant.com

Nota Bene • Queen Street • Canadian (G)

Chef David Lee's menu has been inspired by locally sourced ingredients, including lots of Canadian fish and seafood, and by global cooking influences. Fans of Splendido Restaurant will happily glide over from their downtown offices to sample yellowfin tuna tartare, octopus and rapini salad, and Yucatan hot-and-sour soup, as well as the chef's naturally farmed 60-day dry-aged beef. Pastas, grilled meats, and seafood tempt the palate, as do the extensive cheese selections and international wine list. *Mon–Fri 11am–2:30pm and 5–11pm, Sat 5–11pm.* \$\$\$ ☐ 180 Queen St. W. (Simcoe St.), 416-977-6400, notabenerestaurant.com

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

Crush Wine Bar, p. 61, features modern British cuisine, not French.
Doku 15, p. 61, has been renamed 8 Wine Bar.
Jamie Kennedy at the Gardiner, p. 62, is now called Gardiner Cafe.
Pravda Vodka Bar, p. 71, has a new location: 44 Wellington St. E.
Rain*, p. 65, is now Ame.

Nightlife

Rain*, p. 71, is now Ame.

Closures (Please make a note in your Black Book.)**Restaurants**

Bistro & Bakery Thuet, p. 120
Boba, p. 121
The Courtyard, p. 124
Michelle's Brasserie, p. 127
Perigree, p. 64
Susur, p. 65

Nightlife

Afterlife Nightclub, p. 67
Budo Liquid Theatre, p. 67
Flow Restaurant + Lounge, p. 68
Habitat Lounge, p. 99
Jeff Healey's Roadhouse, p. 134
Opal Jazz Club, p. 70
Therapy Culture Lounge, p. 72
West Lounge, p. 73

Attractions

Museum of Television (temporarily closed), p. 77
Oasis Wellness Centre and Spa, p. 77

Black Book Toronto

Hotels

NAME TYPE (ROOMS)	ADDRESS (CROSS STREET) WEBSITE	N'HOOD PRICE	PHONE 800 NUMBER	EXPERIENCE
Thompson Hotel Trendy (102)	550 Wellington St. W. (King St.) thompsonhotels.com/hotels/toronto/	ED \$\$\$\$	416-640-7778 888-550-8368	Hot & Cool

Restaurants

NAME TYPE	ADDRESS (CROSS STREET) WEBSITE	N'HOOD PRICE	PHONE NOISE/SINGLES	EXPERIENCE
BerBer Lounge North African	49 Front St. E. (Church St.) berberlounge.ca	DT \$\$	416-860-9000 = B	Hot & Cool
Café Madrid Tapas Bar Spanish (G)	97 Danforth Ave. (Broadview) embrujoflamenco.com	GT \$	416-778-0007 = B	Hip
Calisto Italian	647 College St. (Grace St.)	LI \$\$	647-351-7575 = B	Hot & Cool
Cava Restaurant Spanish (G)	1560 Yonge St. (Heath St. E.) cavarestaurant.ca	UP \$	416-979-9918 =	Classic
Ciao Wine Bar Italian	133 Yorkville Ave. (Avenue Rd.) ciaowinebar.com	BY \$\$\$	416-925-2143 = B	Hot & Cool
The Citizen French (G)	730 Queen St. E. (Broadview Ave.)	LR \$\$\$	416-465-0100 = B	Classic
Cowbell French (G)	1564 Queen St. W. (Dowling Ave.) cowbellrestaurant.ca	WQ \$\$\$	416-849-1095 =	Hip
Embrujo Flamenco Spanish (G)	97 Danforth Ave. (Broadview Ave.) embrujoflamenco.com	GT \$\$	416-778-0007 =	Hot & Cool
Foxley Bistro Asian	207 Ossington Ave. (Dundas St. W.) foxleybistro.com	WQ \$\$	416-534-8520 =	Hip
Gilead Café Canadian	4 Gilead Pl. (Eastern Ave.) gileadcafe.ca	SL \$\$	647-288-0680 = B □	Classic
The Harbord Room Canadian	89 Harbord St. (Spadina Ave.) theharbordroom.com	LI \$\$\$	416-962-8989 = B □	Hip
Joy Bistro International	884 Queen St. E. (Logan Ave.) joybistro.com	LR \$\$	416-465-8855 = B	Hip
The Kitchen International	1186 Queen St. W. (Northcote St.) thekitchenonqueenwest.com	WQ \$	416-536-7700 = B	Hot & Cool
Koko! Korean	81 Yorkville Ave. (Bellair St.) kokorestaurant.ca	BY \$\$\$	416-850-6135 = □	Hot & Cool
L.A.B. Molecular Gastronomy (G)	651 College St. (Grace St.) labrestaurant.com	LI \$\$	416-551-5025 = B	Hip
La Perla Bar and Cantina Mexican	783 Queen St. W. (Bathurst St.) milagrorestaurant.com	QS \$\$	416-366-2855 = B	Hot & Cool
Lady Mammalade Diner	898 Queen Street E. (Carlaw Ave.) ladyammalade.ca	LR \$	647-351-7645 =	Hip

Restaurants (cont.)

NAME TYPE	ADDRESS (CROSS STREET) WEBSITE	N'HOOD PRICE	PHONE NOISE/SINGLES	EXPERIENCE
Laide Lounge* Tapas	138 Adelaide St. E. (Jarvis St.) laide.ca	ED \$\$\$	416-850-2726 =	Hot & Cool
Lil' Baci Italian (G)	892 Queen St. E. (Logan Ave.) lilbaci.com	LR \$	416-465-4888 = B	Hip
Loire Casual Gourmet French (G)	119 Harbord St. (Major St.) loirerestaurant.ca	LI \$\$	416-850-8330 =	Classic
Marinella Italian	640 College St. (Grace St.)	LI \$\$	416-348-9200 = B	Hip
Merci Mon Ami Sandwich Shop French	171 E. Liberty St., #107 (Atlantic Ave.) mercimonami.ca	PD \$	647-436-3832 =	Hot & Cool
Milagro Restaurante Y Cantina Mexican (G)	5 Mercer St. (John St.) milagrorestaurant.com	ED \$\$	416-850-2855 = B	Classic
Nota Bene Canadian (G)	180 Queen St. W. (Simcoe St.) notabenerestaurant.com	QS \$\$	416-977-6400 = B	Classic
Nyood Mediterranean (G)	1096 Queen St. W. (Dovercourt Rd.) nyood.ca	WQ \$\$	416-466-1888 = B	Hot & Cool
Oasi Italian (G)	99 Sudbury St. (Dovercourt Rd.) theoasi.com	WQ \$\$\$	416-849-6567 = B	Hot & Cool
Osteria Ciceri e Tria Italian	106 Victoria St. (Queen St. E.)	QS \$\$	416-955-0258 = □	Hip
Paramour Canadian	94 Ossington Ave. (Queen St. W.) paramourdining.com	QS \$\$\$	416-953-2356 = B □	Hot & Cool
Pic Nic Italian	747 Queen St. E. (Broadview Ave.) picnicwinebar.com	LR \$	647-435-5298 =	Hip
Pizzeria Libretto Italian	221 Ossington Ave. (Dundas St. W.) pizzerialibretto.com	LI \$	416-532-8000 = B □	Hip
The Roosevelt Room Continental (G)	2 Drummond Place (Adelaide St. W.) therooseveltroom.ca	ED \$\$\$	416-599-9000 =	Hot & Cool
Ruby WatchCo Canadian (G)	730 Queen St. E. (Broadview Ave.) rubywatchco.ca	LR \$\$	416-465-0100 = B	Hip
School Bakery and Cafe Cafe	70 Fraser Ave. (King St. W.) sbcto.com	PD \$	416-588-0005 =	Hip
Sidecar International (G)	577 College St. (Manning Ave.) sidecarrestaurant.ca	LI \$\$	416-536-7000 = B	Hip
Table 17 Mediterranean (G)	782 Queen St. E. (Broadview Ave.) table17.ca	LR \$\$	416-519-1851 = B	Hot & Cool
Vdara Restaurant Canadian	735 Queen St. W. (Palmerston Ave.) vdararestaurant.com	WQ \$	416-868-3272 = B	Hip

Nightlife

NAME TYPE	ADDRESS (CROSS STREET) WEBSITE	N'HOOD COVER	PHONE NOISE	EXPERIENCE
Barchef Lounge	472 Queen St. W. (Augusta Ave.) barcheftoronto.com	QS	416-868-4800 [Noise Icon]	Hot & Cool
Dolce Social Ballroom Nightclub	647 King St. W. (Bathurst St.) dolcesocial.com	ED [C]	416-361-9111 [Noise Icon]	Hot & Cool
Double Deuce Saloon Bar	1168 Queen St. W. (Northcote Ave.)	WQ	416-533-7258 [Noise Icon]	Hip
Jezebel Burlesque Cabaret	227 Ossington Ave. (Dundas St. W.) jezebeltoronto.com	WQ [C]	416-531-7111 [Noise Icon]	Hot & Cool
Laide Lounge* Lounge	138 Adelaide St. E. (Jarvis St.) laide.ca	ED	416-850-2726 [Noise Icon]	Hot & Cool
Rasputin Vodka Bar Bar	780 Queen St. E. (Broadview Ave.) rasputinvodkabar.com	LR	416-469-3737 [Noise Icon]	Hip
Reign Nightclub	137 Peter St. (Queen St. W.) reigntoronto.com	ED [C]	416-593-1550 [Noise Icon]	Hot & Cool
Reposado Bar	136 Ossington Ave. (Queen St. W.) reposedobar.com	LI	416-532-6474 [Noise Icon]	Hip
Samovar Lounge	51 Winchester St. (Parliament St.) samovarroom.com	LR	416-925-4555 [Noise Icon]	Hot & Cool
Strange Love Bar	587 College St. (Clinton St.) strangelove.ca	LI	416-588-7625 [Noise Icon]	Hot & Cool
Swirl Wine Bar Wine Bar	946 1/2 Queen St. E. (Carlaw Ave.) swirllounge.com	LR \$\$	647-351-5453 [Noise Icon]	Hip
Tattoo Rock Parlour Bar	567 Queen St. W. (Augusta Ave.) tattoorockparlour.com	QS [C]	416-703-5488 [Noise Icon]	Hot & Cool

Attractions

NAME TYPE	ADDRESS (CROSS STREET) WEBSITE	N'HOOD PRICE	PHONE	EXPERIENCE
Art Gallery of Ontario Art Gallery	317 Dundas St. W. (McCaul St.) ago.net	CT	416-979-6648 \$	Hot & Cool
Chasse Gardée Store	1084 Queen St. W. (Dovercourt Rd.) chassegardee.com	WQ	416-901-9613	Hot & Cool

Neighborhood Key

BE = Beaches	GT = Greektown	PD = Parkdale
BY = Bloor/Yorkville	GV = Gay Village	SL = St. Lawrence
CT = Chinatown	HF = Harbourfront	UP = Uptown
DD = Distillery District	LI = Little Italy	UT = University of Toronto
DT = Downtown/Yonge	LR = Leslieville/Riverdale	QS = Queen Street
ED = Entertainment District	OC = Out-of-City	WQ = West Queen West
FD = Financial District	ON = Ontario	

