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October 12, 2022 04:31 PM | UPDATED 14 HOURS AGO

Restaurant Roundup: New restaurant in Greektown, Avalon joins Meijer markets and more

JAY DAVIS



Symposia features Mediterranean cuisine and seating for 65. Gerard + Belevender

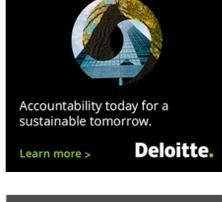
A roundup of local food, drink and restaurant news:

Mediterranean comes to Greektown

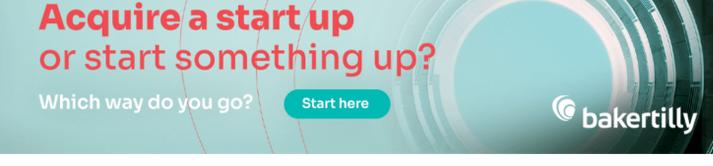
A family that has made its mark on the Greektown section of Detroit has opened its newest restaurant.

Symposia is now open inside the Atheneum Suite Hotel and Conference Center. The restaurant is a Mediterranean-inspired, fine dining eatery, according to a news release. Symposia is a venture from the **Papas family**, which also owns and operates A Bar, Pegasus Taverna, Mosaic and Santorini Estiatorio in Greektown.

St. Clair Shores-based Olon Interior designed the space, which has seating for 65 guests, the release states.



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The menu, curated by Executive Chef Elliot Patti, features dishes inspired by Greece, Italy and Spain. Signature offerings include roasted beet with whipped feta, pickled strawberry and green harissa; Spanish octopus with romesco tomato sauce, potatoes and chorizo; prawn bucatini with Greek olive oil, garlic, blistered tomato, confit lemon, Kalamata olives and fried parsley.

Patti joined Symposia after working in establishments in Los Angeles, Spain, France and England.

Symposia is open 5-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday and 5-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday.



Avalon International Breads' newest cafe is open at Meijer's Rivertown Market in Detroit. Avalon International Breads via Facebook

Avalon joins small-format Meijer stores

Avalon International Breads is taking over the spaces in Meijer's small-format markets in Detroit and Royal Oak that Great Lakes Coffee Roasting Co. exited in August.

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Avalon, which **celebrated 25 years** in business earlier this year, on Oct. 5 opened a cafe in Rivertown Market at 1475 E. Jefferson Ave. in Detroit and plans to move into the space at Woodward Corner Market at 13 Mile Road and Woodward Avenue in Royal Oak in early November.

The cafes will carry Avalon's pastries, breads, cookies, sandwiches and espresso. They will be open daily 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

Avalon also has two other Detroit locations and an Ann Arbor restaurant.

Bloomfield Hills-based Great Lakes also closed its flagship store in Midtown last year and in February saw its employees **go on strike** amid a push to unionize.



New barbecue spot now open daily

The smell of grilled meat is now a daily occurrence in St. Clair Shores.

Full Rack Barbecue is serving customers seven days a week at 21425 Greater Mack Ave. It's open 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for Sunday brunch.

Full Rack **opened its storefront** in August four days a week after operating as a food truck for about two years. The business, owned by Byron Mowrey, offers smoked meats, including spare ribs, brisket and pulled pork. The menu also includes sandwiches, combo meals and side dishes including macaroni and cheese, smoked beans and cornbread.



The Fly Trap diner in Ferndale will offer an abbreviated Sunday dinner menu as it expands its hours of operation.

Fly Trap extends hours

A popular Ferndale diner under new ownership is expanding its hours of operation.

The Fly Trap is now open 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday with an abbreviated dinner menu, according to **social media post**, and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Wednesday.

The Fly Trap **reopened in March** under the ownership of Matt Buskard, who also owns and operates the Bobcat Bonnie's chain of restaurants. Previous owners Kara and Gavin McMillian shut down operations in September after 17 years in business.



Weiss Distilling Co. is celebrating Halloween with Halloweiss -- an event featuring themed cocktails in spooky tiki mugs. Weiss Distilling Co. via Facebook

Clawson distillery gets spooky

Weiss Distilling Co. will celebrate Halloween all month with a special event.

"Halloweiss" will see the distillery transformed into a sort of haunted house featuring skeletons, spiderwebs and horror show vibes, according to a news release.

The **distillery**, at 34 E. 14 Mile Road, will offer special cocktails to go along with the theme. The Whoo Doo Voodoo? comprises Weiss Lightning moonshine, Ritual non-alcoholic liquor, pumpkin, cinnamon and orange juice. The Almond Joy features Weiss Liqueur, vodka, orange, coconut and chocolate bitters. In all, 29 special drinks and shots will be offered this month at Weiss, with all drinks coming in special tiki mugs featuring pumpkins, skulls and vampires. The mugs are available to purchase for \$20.

A food menu featuring caviar, charcuterie and bar food is also available.

Weiss Distilling Co. operates 5 p.m.-midnight Thursday-Sunday. Reservations are encouraged.

Lucky Detroit expands

Lucky Detroit Coffee & Espresso's newest cafe is open inside the Southfield Town Center at 3000 Town Center.



The Southfield cafe, which offers a variety of coffee, cookies, brownies, muffins, croissants and macaroons, joins locations in Corktown and Grosse Pointe Park. A Birmingham shop is planned to open in November, according to a Sept. 2 **Facebook post**.

Lucky Detroit owners did not respond to requests for more information.

Send us your tips and news

Tell us about restaurant and bar openings and closings, new product lines, new owners and chefs, bakeries, markets, suppliers and more. If you have something to share about the local food and drink scene, email jason.davis@crain.com and/or bvalone@crain.com.

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