

 STORY

Atlanta's 12 Most Anticipated Summer Restaurants

ADDITIONS TO KROG STREET MARKET, PLUS NEW RAMEN AND SPANISH

Credit: Little Alley Steak

SPOTS

May 14, 2017 · by Christopher Hassiotis



Summer in the South usually means things slow down. (It's Already. So. Hot.) That's not the case in the ATL food scene, though, and the city's culinary entrepreneurs are working hard to usher in a seemingly never-ending flow of new restaurants, bakeries, cafes and more. Here are 12 openings to keep your eyes on this season. Follow [@ZagatAtlanta](#) on Twitter to make sure you hear the latest news.



@foodtripper/Instagram

Varuni Napoli, Krog Street Market

Acclaimed pizzaiolo Luca Varuni recently celebrated the third anniversary of his eponymous Neapolitan pizzeria in Morningside. A pared-down version of the eatery that relies heavily on Italian techniques and ingredients alike will open soon in Inman Park's popular food hall Krog Street Market.

ETA: Tuesday, May 23

99 Krog St. NE

Mary Hoopa's House of Fried Chicken & Oysters

The name clues you in on what to expect at this upcoming spot from chef Robert Phalen (**One Eared Stag**, ex **Holy Taco**). Fried chicken aplenty will fill the menu, as will oysters raw, grilled, baked, fried and likely arriving in other preparations too. Chef Neal Bukiet heads the kitchen, while beverage director Mikey Kilbourne builds a menu of local beers and cocktails. Originally slated to open earlier this year, Mary Hoopa's will set up shop in East Lake, sharing the same revitalized



Courtesy of Danielle Oron/Yalla

The Canteen

Set in the former Spence space in Midtown's Tech Square, this "mini food hall" from the owners of [West Egg](#) and [The General Muir](#) will house smaller versions of the food stalls they also operate in Krog Street Market, such as the sandwich and burger counter [Fred's Meat & Bread](#) and the Middle Eastern [Yalla](#). Also look for a bagel-focused offshoot of the General Muir and a cocktail spot called Square Bar.

ETA: June

[75 5th St. NW](#)

Now shuttered Cockatrice will be Bar Mercado, a Spanish restaurant focusing on small plates and cocktails inspired by the Iberian peninsula. Confidence is high, as it's run by the Castellucci team behind the similarly themed **Iberian Pig** and **Cooks & Soldiers**.

ETA: June

99 Krog St. NW



Courtesy Jinya Ramen Bar

Jinya Ramen Bar

After the wild success of the **first ATL-area outpost** of this global ramen chain, a second branch will open in Buckhead. Expect to see a larger interior space and more seating than at the Sandy Springs location, though the menu will still offer up a staggering array of noodle soups, Japanese small plates and snacks.

ETA: Late June

3714 Roswell Rd.

C. Ellet's

Coming to The Battery, the new development around SunTrust Park (call it Braves fortress, if you like), is the latest brainchild of Linton and Gina Hopkins (**Restaurant Eugene**, **Hop's Chicken**, **Holeman & Finch**, etc.) Focusing on classic steakhouse fare, plus an expansive oyster bar, C. Ellet's

ETA: Late June*675 Battery Ave.**Courtesy of Little Alley Steak*

Little Alley Steak

It's been more than a year and a half since Aja closed in Buckhead, and the space finally gets new life this summer with Little Alley Steak, a second iteration of **the Roswell steakhouse**. It's the first ITP foray for F&H Food Trading Group, who has extended its upscale gastropub **Salt Factory** across a number of suburban locations, while overseeing Roswell's **1920 Tavern** and pizzeria **The Real Fix**. Expect to find the same prime steaks and indulgent sides, with a nod to Southern comfort food, all in a setting drawing aesthetic inspiration from pre-Depression-era America.

James Beard semifinalist restaurateurs Eddie Hernandez and Mike Klank are expanding their influential taco chain. As a precursor to pretty much every other fusion-inspired taqueria in town, Taqueria del Sol has relied on local, Southern ingredients and inventive combinations for years. The newest branch will land in Chamblee's Peachtree Station development, which will also see a **Yeah! Burger** open later this fall.

ETA: July

5001 Peachtree Blvd., Chamblee

Golden Eagle and Muchacho

Owner Michael Lennox, who knocked it out of the park with the outdoor-themed **Ladybird Grove & Mess Hall**, takes over the former Reynoldstown space formerly occupied by H. Harper Station. The one-time train depot building will house two separate restaurants: Golden Eagle will be a throwback to midcentury design, with a U-shaped central cocktail bar and a kitchen turning out tavern fare; the counter-service Muchacho, on the other hand, is resurrecting a late-'70s beach vibe, aiming to deliver tacos, grain bowls and all-day breakfast with bright flavors.

ETA: July/August

904 Memorial Drive SE

Donetto

Westside gets a contemporary Italian option with this arrival, which will place Tuscan cooking front and center in the **Atlanta Stockyards** building, right across from Miller Union. It comes courtesy the Charleston-based Indigo Road restaurant group, which operates nearby sushi spot O-Ku and Avalon's **Oak Steakhouse** and **Colletta**. Chef Michael Perez, formerly of those latter two spots, will head up the kitchen at Donetto, focusing on smaller plates, shareable dishes and a rotating pasta menu.

ETA: July/August

976 Brady Ave. NW

Wade's

Jason McClure, the chef who led the kitchens at **Flip Burger Boutique** and **Villains**, is opening a place of his own near his home in the suburb of Smyrna. Next to a city park, the family-friendly spot will provide ample outdoor seating and a menu that goes beyond McClure's burgers and



Find a place

NEW & HOT

CHOOSE A CITY

Coalition Food and Beverage

The team behind Roswell favorites **Table & Main** and **Osteria Mattone** are hopping from their cozy Canton Street surrounds to the next 'burb over. In Alpharetta's Teasley Place, Coalition will focus on modern American fare with an emphasis on wood-fired entrees.

ETA: Late August

108 Canton St., Alpharetta

NEW OPENINGS

MIDTOWN

NEW RESTAURANTS

COMING SOON

FORD FRY

DECATUR

BUCKHEAD

PLACES MENTIONED (3)

LITTLE ALLEY STEAK

Steakhouse · \$\$\$

FOOD 4.4

4.6 ★★★★★ (123)

Upscale cuts, local charcuterie & an extensive spirits list from a vibrant, retro-chic steakhouse.

VARUNI NAPOLI

Pizza · Morningside-Lenox Park · \$\$

ZAGAT RATED

4.6 ★★★★★ (150)