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Washington may get its first smart city. Not sure what that means? Don't worry, we explain.

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TOPSHELF

RESTAURANT WATCH

The Smith opens; Sea Catch shutter



COURTESY MICHAEL JACOBS

The Smith, a high-energy brasserie from New York-based Corner Table Restaurants, opened Jan. 30 at 901 F St. NW, taking the place of a former McCormick & Schmick's restaurant there.

The 8,600-square-foot restaurant serves a menu of American bistro fare, including a skillet-baked mac and cheese, roasted Atlantic cod and beef short ribs with jalapeño cheddar grits. The Smith also offers an extensive raw bar, with oysters from Virginia as well as other East Coast locales, and nightly specials such as fried chicken on Wednesday and paella on Saturday.

The restaurant's design, by //3877, pulls from a classic bistro, with studded leather chairs, black and white miniature tile floors and a white subway tile backdrop to the bar. More rustic elements include decorative wooden ceilings in different areas of the restaurant. The Smith initially opens just for dinner but will eventually add breakfast, lunch and weekend brunch.

The Smith had been in talks to open in a space next to Momofuku in City-CenterDC, but that deal fell through. McCormick & Schmick's, which previously inhabited the F Street space, closed in the fall of 2015.

Colada Shop: The second location of Cuban cafe Colada Shop opened Feb. 1 at 1405 T St. NW, just off the buzzy 14th Street NW corridor. Colada Shop offers a small menu of Cuban favorites including a Cuban sandwich, pastelitos, or pastries filled with sweet and savory fillings, and croquetas. The shop also has an extensive Cuban coffee program and \$8 specialty cocktail menu.

Sea Catch: Bad news for Georgetown: Sea Catch, the longtime seafood restaurant at 1054 31st St. NW, closed its doors Jan. 29 after more than 30 years. A new restaurant will open in the space, though the landlord, RB Properties Inc., is keeping mum on details.

Joselito: A more casual spot from the owners of Spanish restaurant Ser in Ballston opened Jan. 12 on Capitol Hill, bringing tapas and more Spanish goodies to Eastern Market. The restaurant, at 660 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, takes the place of Sona Creamery and Wine Bar, which closed in 2016.

TBSP: Another location of The Best Sandwich Place is coming to downtown, this one to 1300 Eye St. NW. The fast-casual sandwich chain is in the same building as Richard Sandoval steak restaurant Toro Toro. It's the second location for TBSP, which is also located on the Georgetown waterfront.

► AIR UPGRADE

DULLES GAINS NEW NONSTOP WITH AIR INDIA

Dulles International Airport will host the Washington region's first direct flights to and from India this summer, connecting the two capital cities and targeting a growing international visitor market.

Air India, owned by the Indian government, will launch nonstop, round-trip flights from Dulles to New Delhi three times weekly starting in July. It is the fifth U.S. city the airline will fly to directly, after Chicago, New York, San Francisco and Newark, New Jersey.

Democratic Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe has proposed a \$1.25 million, three-year state incentive package

beginning in fiscal 2018 to support the new flight, while the District said it will chip in \$250,000 this year to help Destination D.C. market it.

India has become an increasingly important visitor market for Greater Washington, one likely to be bolstered by a direct flight.

Of the 2 million overseas visitors who came to the District proper in 2015 — the most recent year data is available — 80,000 of them were from India, ranking India sixth among nations sending tourists to D.C., according to Destination D.C.'s latest report.



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