



Sam Jones BBQ

WHAT'S NEW

in Raleigh, N.C.

Culinary and Nightlife News

Newly Opened

Sam Jones BBQ

Rooted in the tradition of North Carolina whole-hog barbecue that third-generation pitmaster and James Beard Award semifinalist Sam Jones has known his entire life. Since his teenage years, Sam worked with his family's acclaimed barbecue mecca, Skylight Inn, before deciding to open his own business, in partnership with Michael Letchworth, in Winterville, N.C., in 2015. Chopped barbecue is king at Sam Jones BBQ, made from whole-hog smoked over Carolina oak. Other menu highlights include tried-and-true Southern staples at their finest, such as slow-cooked chicken, spare ribs, pork skins and pimento cheese, sweet slaw, baked beans, hand-cut fries, collard greens and more. Sam has now opened the second location of Sam Jones BBQ in downtown Raleigh—housed in a former mechanic shop—that seats up to 140 people indoors and outside on the patio. The space features a full bar with beer, wine and cocktails and includes a second-level private event space for up to 50 guests.

Young Hearts Distilling

Downtown Raleigh's first distillery and restaurant has come to life from the owners of Raleigh's beloved Trophy Brewing Company. Young Hearts opened in August 2021 and offers a variety of liquors, tasty bites, rooftop patio, event space and more. The menu focuses on local producers and botanical-forward spirits to provide a sense of place and season in North Carolina.



Young Hearts Distilling

(ish) Delicatessen

In the works for five years now, Matt Fern's sandwich shop in downtown Raleigh opened this summer. Here's the word from Fern himself, a longtime veteran of the food and beverage scene in the City of Oaks: "If you crave the tastes of Jewish, Russian, American, Italian or just about anything between two slices of bread, then your new favorite sandwich joint is here. We know you are going to love it and can't wait to share our food with you."

Standard Beer and Food

Cary's beloved Bond Brothers Beer Company team revitalized the former Standard Foods space in the Person Street district. The new venue focuses on pub-style beers with culinary inspiration and a cozy indoor space and outside yard to emphasize synergy between beer, food, people and the space.

Element Gastropub

Chef Lelia Kidd's new plant-based gastropub concept sits right in the heart of downtown Raleigh's Fayetteville St. The fully vegan menu makes no compromises—you'll find buffalo chicken sandwiches, crispy wings, BBQ nachos, smash burgers and more (all with the appropriate substitutes) to go alongside an extensive beer and cocktail menu.

Coming Soon

Year of BBQ

With a plate of barbecue in hand, all is right with the world. Pitmasters across the state are converging on Raleigh to make it the BBQ Capital of NC this year. Longleaf Swine is graduating from food truck to brick-and-mortar in downtown's historic Oakwood neighborhood. Midtown Raleigh will be home to Ed Mitchell's new partnership with LM Restaurants, The Preserve. Redneck BBQ Lab (from Johnston County) will open another location in North Hills. **Recently opened:** Third-generation pitmaster and James Beard semifinalist Sam Jones' newest namesake restaurant, Sam Jones BBQ, in downtown Raleigh. Champion pitmaster Christopher Prieto's Prime Barbecue in Knightdale and Shady's barbecue bar in Garner.

BB's Crispy Chicken

Chef Ashley Christensen's new fast-casual project focusing on iconic Southern comfort food—fried chicken. The Raleigh location will open first in the new Midtown East Shopping Center and a Cary location later in 2021.



(ish) Delicatessen

Hotel News

Newly Opened

Heights House Hotel

This property is currently being renovated and restored to be a nine-room boutique inn and gathering space. It was created from an 1858 Italianate style historic mansion in the Boylan Heights neighborhood. This National and Raleigh Historic Landmark is one of the few remaining pre-civil war houses in the area and is estimated to open in Spring 2021.



Origin Raleigh

Located between the Glenwood South and Warehouse Districts in downtown Raleigh, this incredibly-stylish and modern full-service property opened in March. The vibrant 126-room, seven-story boutique hotel with locally-inspired décor includes event space and a plant-forward restaurant called Good Day Good Night.



The Longleaf Hotel

A modernized mid-century gem sitting at the northern gateway to downtown Raleigh not far from the museums, State Capitol, Glenwood South district and more. The state's namesake is the longleaf pine, which inspired every aspect of this modern renovation of a vintage motor lodge. This 56 room property opened in January 2020.

AC Hotel Raleigh Downtown

Glenwood South's newest hotel, which is part of The Willard development, opened in late-September 2021. The 146-room Summit Hospitality project is a stylish, urban hotel and includes the rooftop AC Lounge.

Renovations

The Umstead Hotel and Spa

Five Star and Five Diamond independently owned hotel drawing inspiration from art and nature. The property features stunning interiors punctuated with privately curated fine art, 150 spacious guest rooms and suites, world-class cuisine, a stimulating spa and a serene woodland setting. In late 2020 the hotel completed a \$14 million total renovation of its rooms, corridors, bar, lounge and Herons restaurant.

Transportation

RDU International Airport

Pre-COVID, RDU was averaging more than 400 daily arrivals and departures and service to nearly 60 destinations via nonstop flights. This year RDU added some local flair to the airport with a full craft beer bar and robust menu from Raleigh's third-largest production brewery, Raleigh Brewing Taproom, and a beloved European bakery from Cary's own Master Baker Lionel Vatinet, La Farm Bakery Café, (both in Terminal 2). **Flight returns:** Air Canada has resumed its nonstop daily to Toronto. AC will resume nonstop to Montreal in early 2022, along with Delta nonstop to Paris daily and American daily nonstop to London Heathrow.

Noteworthy Attractions

Moore Square Park Renovation

One of four public spaces that was designated by the founders of Raleigh in 1792, downtown Raleigh's Moore Square Park recently completed a new master plan. The \$12.5 million renovation included landscaping, construction of a small cafe (Square Burger), concert area, water feature and more. The grand opening celebration took place on August 3, 2019.

North Carolina Museum of Art and Museum Park

More than 5,000 works of art spanning from antiquity to present day make up the bulk of masterpieces you'll find at NCMA, plus the largest museum art park in the country. Museum Park's 160+ acres of meadows, woodlands, and creeks expanded a few years ago adding contemporary gardens, a promenade connecting the park and galleries, hundreds of new trees and an elliptical lawn overlooking the park's rolling meadow. The vast trail system is designed for walking, jogging, hiking and cycling. Explore more than 30 works of art surrounding the outside of the museum and along the trails and greenway paths. Don't miss the Rodin Garden and the trio of Gyre rings (pictured below).



Coming Soon

North Carolina Freedom Park

A long-planned park aiming to honor the African American struggle for freedom and liberty for all broke ground in late 2020 just a few blocks from the N.C. State Capitol. The park will include quotes from famous Black North Carolinians engraved throughout the space, and a large sculpture in the middle of the park will shine a light into the night sky (the Beacon of Freedom) to reflect the fire for freedom. Designed by the internationally-known late architect Phil Freelon, the park expects to open in 2022.



For more information, contact:



Jessica Holt, Public Relations and
International Tourism Manager
919.645.2654 • jholt@visitRaleigh.com