

RESTAURANTS + BARS

16 restaurants and cafes that opened in Metro Detroit in October, plus 7 that closed



Melody Baetens

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The themes of the October 2024 roundup of Metro Detroit restaurant openings are reopenings and second locations.

This month marked the triumphant return of not only long-awaited Lady of the House and Taqueria El Rey in Detroit, but also modest neighborhood Hamtramck joint Royal Kabob. Sterling Heights Mexican restaurant Que Pasa opened a second location in Royal Oak, while national chains Big Chicken, Chick-fil-A and Paris Baguette opened additional area stores.

Read on for details about 16 restaurants, cafes and bakeries that opened in Metro Detroit this month, plus seven that closed.

Taqueria El Rey and Tres Leches 'n' Snacks in Mexicantown

Years after this family-run restaurant was destroyed by a fire, Taqueria El Rey has made its triumphant return as a brick-and-mortar business on Oct. 18. Located in a building that was home to El Zocalo restaurant for more than 30 years, El Rey once again offers sit-down service with a full bar and an in-house kitchen serving its signature grilled chicken, ribs and tacos. The menu at the new location has whole and half grilled chicken dinners, whole and half rib slabs, tacos, quesadillas, tostadas, tortas and burritos. There's also a menu from sister business Tres Leches with walking tacos, nachos, banana splits, mangonada and more.

Open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Thurs.-Tues. Closed Wednesdays. 3400 Bagley, Detroit. (313) 357-3094.

Did It My Way Cigar & Wine Bar in Downtown Detroit

A sleek wine and cigar bar has emerged on the ground floor of the Penobscot Building with an entrance on Fort street. Did It My Way, a reference to the Frank Sinatra song, has a glossy lounge area with dark, moody decor, a fireplace and a few televisions. There's also a central bar area with cushy seating and low-top tables. The kitchen serves a small menu of soups, salads and wraps at lunch. Did It My Way is still in the soft opening phase as they wait for approval to have cigar smoking.

645 Griswold, Detroit.

Royal Kabob in Hamtramck

A longstanding go-to in Hamtramck for family dinners, nights out with friends or just to warm up with a bowl of crushed lentil soup, Royal Kabob reopened this month after being closed since 2020. Sit in the full-service dining room or order a carryout of its signature dishes, such as kibbe, vegetarian grape leaves and their famous half deboned, char-grilled chicken with your choice of rice or fries and a soup or salad. Royal Kabob also has freshly squeezed juices and smoothies.

Open 10 a.m.-10 p.m. daily. 3236 Caniff, Hamtramck. (313) 872-9454. hroyalkabob.com.

Lady of the House in Core City

Easily the most buzzed-about reopening of the year, chef Kate Williams has reopened her nationally recognized Lady of the House restaurant in a new location. Formerly in Corktown, the farm-to-table restaurant is now in a smaller home in Core City. It's still focused on a seasonal, ever-changing menu and classic hospitality and the crockery is still a lovely mish-mash of donated antique-looking plates, bowls and cups. "Shrimp butter will be on the menu, that's something we can't get away from. People love it and the staff loves it. What the staff likes to eat, dictates a lot of what goes on the menu," Williams told The Detroit News just before the Oct. 23 opening. "We're opening with a lot of the old favorites. I'm excited rotating the menu a little more often and asking the farmers, 'What do you have?' and then making a dish with that."

Open 4:30-9:30 p.m. Wed.-Fri., 5-9:30 p.m. Sat. and 5-8:30 p.m. Sun. 4884 Grand River, Unit 1C, Detroit. (313) 230-4678. Ladyofthehousedetroit.com.

Rudy's Prime Steakhouse in Clarkston

Located in the former Rudy's Market and Clarkston News buildings, this new steakhouse made its debut in the middle of October. The upscale destination serves steaks with zip sauce, seafood, pasta and other house specialties like a gourmet cheeseburger, fried chicken and a classic wedge salad. The team includes executive chef Josh Stockton, formerly of Detroit's Gold Cash Gold and Birmingham's Daxton Hotel.

Open 4-10 p.m. Tues.-Thurs., 4-11 p.m. Fri.-Sat. and 4-9 p.m. Sun. 9 S. Main, Village of Clarkston. (248) 625-3033. Rudysprimesteakhouse.com.

Norm's Diner in West Village

A much-needed breakfast and lunch spot for the neighborhood, Norm's is now open where Detroit Vegan Soul once was. The menu features standards like biscuits and gravy, pancakes and a turkey club, as well as some fun stuff like a lox plate with rye toast, vegan breakfast meats and chocolate malts. Dine in or order a carryout.

Open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Thurs.-Mon. Closed Tues.-Wed. 8029 Agnes, Detroit. (313) 332-0347. normsdiner.com.

JP's Makes and Bakes in New Center

Baker Jonathan Peregrino opened his bakery in Detroit's New Center area this month, serving traditional Filipino flavors in familiar formats. Expect cookies, sticky buns, bibingka (a Filipino coconut cake), coffee drinks, tea and more. Peregrino, a Hatch Detroit Top 10 finalist, competed on season 7 of the Food Network's "Holiday Baking Championship" show.

Soft opening hours are 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Thurs.-Fri. and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat. 6529 Woodward, Suite B, Detroit. (313) 338-8595. <https://www.jpmakesandbakes.com>.

Corktown Taphouse in Corktown

This new destination has a lot going on. Check in when you arrive and guests are given a wristband connected to their debit or credit account which activates the wall of self-pour taps that have beer, wine, cider and seltzers. There's also a cocktail bar and two food stands. One of the main attractions is the duckpin bowling lanes, which is like traditional bowling but with lighter balls and pins, which are attached to strings. There's also AR dart boards, and

activities for younger kids, too. As for food, there are two independently run kitchens within: 1834 Kitchen with classic comfort food and a Mexican cuisine concept called Agave Lime.

Open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sun.-Wed., 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Thurs. and 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Fri.-Sat. 1611 Michigan, Detroit. (313) 362-8184. corktowntaphouse.com.

More October openings

Antica Nova: A new Italian restaurant behind the San Marino Club from chef Anthony Giannola is open with a full bar and happy hour at 1695 E. Big Beaver in Troy.

Big Chicken: The third location in Michigan and the first in Metro Detroit, Shaquille O'Neal's Big Chicken opened this month in Livonia at 30130 Plymouth.

Chick-fil-A: The latest location of this chicken sandwich chain opened this month at 32061 Gratiot in Roseville.

Decent Detroit: A new neighborhood coffee shop on the east side, this cafe is open daily at 7 a.m. at 14834 Kercheval in Detroit.

Halal Beirut: A modest Middle Eastern cafe opened near Caniff and Conant this month at 3636 Caniff with shawarma, smoothies, salads, baked goods and more.

Paris Baguette: A second area location of this national, French-inspired bakery cafe with South Korean roots opened this month at 21400 Michigan in Dearborn where Andiamo Dearborn once was.

Que Pasa Taqueria: A second location for this popular Sterling Heights restaurant has opened in Royal Oak at 221 E. 12 Mile with their famous red tacos, birria ramen, sopes, quesadillas and more.

Yallah Express: Quick-service Middle Eastern restaurant has reopened in its new location, 44500 Garfield in Clinton Township.

October closings

Ascension Brewing Company: After nearly a decade of business, this neighborhood craft brewery in Novi closed its doors on Oct. 6. “Despite our passion and dedication to bringing you the finest craft beers and food, the downturn in the beer industry and scaling challenges have not been favorable to us,” reads a statement posted to social media.

Black Ginger: A creative and fresh Korean American restaurant at the Trumbull and Porter Hotel in Corktown closed this month suddenly after about five months of business. "Due to a dispute with the property, Black Ginger is unfortunately closing our doors," reads a post on the restaurant's Instagram. "We apologize for any inconvenience this causes, and we thank you for all your support and enthusiasm for our food and staff these past five months." The post alludes to a comeback down the line, asking customers to stay tuned for updates. Neither the restaurant nor the hotel responded to The Detroit News' request for comment.

Bobcat Bonnie's Ypsilanti: The second Bobcat Bonnie's location to close this year, this Ypsilanti location shuttered amongst a dispute between management and employees. After a picket at the Ferndale location, management released a statement saying the two sides have reached an agreement. "I want to thank the Bobcat United group for keeping things civil and professional while we negotiated a severance package for the impacted Ypsilanti workers. Going forward, the management team and I are dedicated to listening to all of our employees as we work together to create a fun and inviting dining experience for our guests," said owner Matt Buskard in a statement. Bobcat Bonnie's locations remain open in Corktown, Ferndale, Grand Rapids, Wyandotte and Lansing.

Bubi's Awesome Eats: Not Metro Detroit exactly, but Bubi's was a huge part of the Windsor dining scene for 40 years. Known as a casual spot with gourmet burgers and a famous garlic sauce, Bubi's was once featured on the Food Network. The brand lives on as a line of dipping sauce, which is sold in specialty markets on both sides of the U.S.-Canadian border. Visit bubissauce.com.

Snack Camp Detroit: While one West Village restaurant makes its debut (Norm's Diner, see above), another closes its doors. Snack Camp was known for serving tea, baked goods and daily specials like sandwiches and soups. Owners posted to Instagram saying they would not be renewing the lease and closing up at the end of October.

Sushi Town: A small, modest go-to for sushi closed in Ann Arbor after 18 years of business. MLive reported that a sign on the door announced the closing on Oct. 5. "Thank you for your love and support ... we have loved being part of your lives," read the note on the door at 740 Packard in Ann Arbor.

Uno Pizzeria & Grill: The Sterling Heights location of this national Chicago-style pizzeria chain closed on Oct. 26. A Farmington Hills location is still open at 37529 Grand River.

Melody Baetens is The Detroit News restaurant critic

mbaetens@detroitnews.com

More: 10 restaurants that opened in September 2024 and 6 that closed