



Taste Buds Take Flight

To say that Freebird (page 54) specializes in Taiwanese roast chicken is an understatement. Their chicken is rubbed with salt, hung to dry, then slow-roasted to perfection. Ordering it is a no-brainer—the only challenging part is deciding whether to have it on rice, salad, roti flatbread or a croissant sandwich. You can even order a whole chicken to take with you. The man behind the magic is chef Angus An, also the mastermind who created Maenam (page 58) and several other popular local eateries. Wherever he leads, our taste buds are happy to follow—even all the way to Taiwan.—*Sheri Radford*

OLYMPIC VILLAGE/ CAMBIE

Pub BIG ROCK URBAN The rotating taps at this Alberta-based brewery include the sippers that earned them fame, plus locally inspired craft beer such as the Thirsty Beaver Amber Ale. Pizzas, burgers and more complement the on-tap offerings, or pair with local wines and spirits. Growler filling station. \$-\$\$ L/D (daily). 310 W. 4 Ave. 604-708-8311. & **Map 1: F6** www.bigrockbeer.com

Indian VIJ'S RESTAURANT Indian, Where to Dine Awards since 2005. Vij's superb, innovative Indian fare evolves at whim, with a menu that changes frequently. Regulars rave over the lamb "popsicles." Wonderful vegetarian dishes, too. \$\$-\$\$\$ D (daily). 3106 Cambie St. 604-736-6664. & **Map 4: D3** www.vijsrestaurant.ca

OUTLYING AREAS

Dessert TEMPER CHOCOLATE & PASTRY Mouth-watering selection

of European pastries, confectionery and chocolate. Soups and baguette sandwiches, too. \$\$. Open daily. 2409 Marine Dr., West Vancouver. 604-281-1152. & **Map 4: B3** www.temperpastry.com

WEST END

Regional: Upscale FORAGE Savour a deliciously sustainable meal. The diverse menu includes an array of local ingredients, including the foraged mushrooms, served alongside fresh Okanagan goat cheese and handmade caraway rye bread. \$\$-\$\$\$ B/D (daily), brunch (Sa-Su). **Listel Hotel:** 1300 Robson St. 604-661-1400. & **Map 1: B4** www.foragevancouver.com

Japanese HOKKAIDO RAMEN

SANTOUKA Direct from Japan with a modern feel, this noodle house is recognized internationally for its thin-noodle ramen recipe. The pork cheek is a favourite. \$\$ L/D (daily). 1690 Robson St. 604-681-8121. Partial & **Map 1: B4** www.santouka.co.jp

Seafood THE HOLY CRAB This international chain brings Louisiana-style seafood to the West End. Tie on a bib and crack into Cajun-spiced Dungeness crab, crayfish, shrimp, lobster and more. Snacks and side dishes include sweet corn, seafood chowder and crispy calamari. \$\$ D (daily), brunch (Sa-Su). 1588 Robson St. 604-661-8533. **Map 1: B4** www.theholycrab.ca

VALETOWN

Italian LUPO RESTAURANT & VINOTECA Fresh, regional ingredients are served to perfection in dishes such as the lamb shank osso buco. Extensive wine selection. Group menus available. \$\$-\$\$\$ D (daily). 869 Hamilton St. 604-569-2535. **Map 1: D6** www.luporestaurant.ca

Fusion M8 BISTRO & BAR Located beneath the Burrard Bridge, this stylish room offers waterfront views. Creative menu combines Italian and Chinese delicacies, offering a range of pastas, rice bowls and tempura. Cocktails, too. \$\$ L (Tu-F), D (Tu-Su), brunch (Sa-Sun). 3-1010 Beach Ave. 604-620-9586. & **Map 1: D4** www.m8yvr.com



IN GOOD SPIRITS Talented local distillers gather at the BC Distilled Festival (Apr. 4; page 54), making it the perfect place for thirsty travellers to sample top-notch gin, whisky and more.