

New Noshes

WHERE AND WHAT TO EAT THIS MONTH



FRESH ST. MARKET

Think groceries are just groceries? Think again. While **Fresh St. Market**, open in downtown's Beach District and inspired by North America's top public markets and eateries, offers cupboard, fridge and pantry staples (with a focus on local goods by brands like **Mt. Lehman Cheese Co.** and **NutMeg Mylk**), there's so much more in store, from the dine-in **Fork Lift Kitchen & Bar**, where the tacos are made from scratch, to the "That's One Hot Cookie" station, where Fresh's signature warm treat is served alongside mile-high sticky buns. Also, a grind-your-own-peanut-butter bar and the greatest pick of mushrooms we've ever seen at a grocer. And, if you live downtown, Fresh St. will deliver your groceries to you by bike. **1423 Continental St., 604-265-1311. Freshstmarket.com** NOA NICHOL

OLD BIRD

Take some favourite family recipes, throw in an array of modern dishes inspired by Shanghaiese and Taiwanese street food, and what do you get? **Old Bird**. Opened mid-January in the former **Nomad** space, the room features huge red lanterns hanging from high ceilings while the menu promises "Chinese food with attitude." And, boy, does it ever deliver—in the tastiest way possible. The smoked half-chicken comes with plastic gloves, fancy gold-handled scissors and firm instructions to eat with your hands, and the made-in-house Hong Kong-style fish balls are served in a flavourful seafood curry broth. Other tasty offerings: beef short ribs in black pepper sauce; steamed black cod with ginger, garlic and scallion sauce; and honey-glazed barbecue pork with red cabbage. Complementing the dishes, the restaurant's cocktail list is filled with creative concoctions, all of which go down, perhaps, a little too easily—especially the Lapsang Gimlet and the Main Street 75. **Old Bird** is located right across the street from **The Acorn** and **The Arbor**, and within shouting distance of **Hawker's Delight** and **Sun Sui Wah**, giving foodie birds-of-a-feather yet another appetizing reason to flock to Main. **3950 Main St., 604-873-1172. Oldbird.ca** SHERI RADFORD



BRASS FISH TAVERN

Fried chicken and an order of California rolls—why not? It's Vancouver, and West Coasters do things a little differently. Case in point: **Brass Fish Tavern**. The latest offering from the **Donnelly Group** has opened in downtown's Marine Building, taking over and completely revamping the old **Elephant & Castle** space. Thrice as nice as an ordinary pub, Brass Fish boasts a tavern and a sushi bar downstairs, and a lounge up. Tall, dramatic trees dot the lower level, suggesting the leafy green ambience of a summer patio no matter what the weather outside, while, on the upper level, a semi-private dining room looks out over all the main-floor action. On the menu, chef Clement Chan has created a lineup of offerings as enticing as you'd expect from a *Top Chef Canada* and *Chopped Canada* competitor. Tempting tastes include the shishito peppers, smoked ham croquettes, dynamite rolls, yam tempura, crispy chicken sandwich and lamb shank with risotto. On the drinks side, wet your whistle with the usual suspects (beer, wine, highballs) or try a creative cocktail like the Coco Russki, made from vodka, coconut milk, **Kahlua** and cold brew. Whatever you choose, be sure to raise a glass (or three) to this new triple threat. **385 Burrard St., 604-336-9167. Donnellygroup.ca** SHERI RADFORD

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