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WEEKEND

Dining

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Bazi

1200 Collins Ave., Miami Beach;
305-695-0101

The Who: Chef Michael Pirolo and partner Jen Chaefsky, the team behind Macchialina, have branched out in South Beach with this Asian stunner.

The Space: The lobby of the storied Marlin Hotel is now a 70-seat dining room awash in reds and grays with tufted banquettes, custom-made pendant lighting and a massive gold dragon that overlooks the space. A second-floor private dining room overlooks the main dining room and can seat up to 16.

Ceremonial tea service: Available via tableside carts using locally based JoJo Tea.

The Dishes: Mix-and-match Asian-inspired. Prices are on par for South Beach with starters \$12-\$20 and mains \$22-\$58.

"We didn't want to box ourselves in," says Pirolo, of the diverse menu that touches on various cuisines including Chinese, Japanese and Vietnamese traditions. "And we're using French and Italian techniques, using butter in some instances to soften the sometimes harsh flavors."

The menu touches on Cantonese specialties like scallion pancakes with three types of dipping sauces, including togarashi mayo and chile oil; bao buns stuffed with short ribs; and chow fun noodles. Japanese influences abound with the pork gyoza, edamame dumplings and duck udon flecked with swaying bonito flakes. Two can easily make a meal of the small plates, but larger mains include the Peking duck served with pancakes and pickled melon and a 22-ounce grass-fed rib eye. Sides of veggies like asparagus come topped with fermented egg. Desserts include a Filipino-inspired Halo Halo and mango-flecked rice pudding.

The Bottom Line: There's no trace of Macchialina at this family-style Asian spot where Peking duck and tea service are some of the highlights.

— EVAN S. BENN AND SARA LISS



Habit Burger breaks into the Miami market

Because no city can ever have too many burger joints, California-based Habit Burger has set up shop at 9971 W. Flagler St. in Miami. Recently named "best-tasting burger" by USA Today, the fast-casual chain opened a location in Delray Beach in June and will open in Royal Palm Beach later this year. "Florida has been very enthusiastic about The Habit Burger Grill brand, and we are thrilled to expand our base in South Florida," said Matt Hood, chief marketing officer. "We offer only premium fresh, never-frozen burgers seasoned with our proprietary spice blend, grilled over an open flame and cooked to order."



Food market opens at Bayfront Park

El Mercado de San Miguel, Madrid's 100-year-old food market, is popping up at Miami's Bayfront Park through January. The doors open Saturday to La Feria, a tented space at 301 Biscayne Blvd. full of food and drink kiosks selling Spanish tapas and more. Local artisans like Zak the Baker and Proper Sausages will create food for the market, along with Spanish chefs selected by Mercado de San Miguel owner Montserrat Valle. La Feria's hours are 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 10 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday.

The List: Stripsteak chef's favorite Miami bites

Chef Derrick Roberts is the man behind the grills at Stripsteak in the Fontainebleau Miami Beach. Here, he shares his 10 favorite things to eat outside of his restaurant:



- 1. Lucali**
Pizza with Hot Peppers and Pepperoni.
1930 Bay Rd., Miami Beach; 305-695-4441.
- 2. Bodega**
Short Rib Tacos, Ice Cold Modelo.
1220 16th St., Miami Beach; 305-704-2145.
- 3. Morimoto** (closing Sept. 30)
Chirashi Bowl and Tuna Pizza.
1801 Collins Ave., Miami Beach; 305-341-1500.
- 4. Yardbird**
Crunchy Chicken Sandwich with Braised Bacon.
1600 Lenox Ave., Miami Beach; 305-538-5220.
- 5. Steve's Pizza**
Eggplant Parmesan Hero.
12101 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami; 305-891-0202.
- 6. Publix**
Italian Combo Sub.
1920 West Ave., Miami Beach; 305-534-4621.
- 7. Dolce**
Pasta.
1690 Collins Ave., Miami Beach; 786-975-2550.
- 8. Chalan on the Beach**
Ceviche.
1580 Washington Ave., Miami Beach; 305-532-8880.
- 9. Beijing Café**
Great Chinese takeout.
6950 Collins Ave., Miami Beach; 305-866-2855.
- 10. BurgerFi**
Cheeseburger with Jalapeños.
1242 Washington Ave., Miami Beach; 305-534-0340.