

Where to Find a Tasty Burger

Written by Geoffrey Anderson Jr. and Dianne Rubin, BT Contributors
May 2019

Food news we know you can use



Summer will be here before you know it, and most people are putting the finishing touches on their beach bodies. Not us. We're salivating just thinking about seasonal staples like the almighty burger. Fortunately, we don't have to wait until grilling season to enjoy one.

Across South Florida there are plenty of restaurants putting their own spin on the classic burger or just serving a darn good one. Five pounds later, we've managed to narrow down some of our favorites.

Over in Brickell, **B Bistro + Bakery** (600 Brickell Ave., 305-330-6310) is destroying diets with its BBB Swag Burger during brunch service. It's the definition of decadence: a multi-patty monster with cheddar cheese, bacon jam, onion soubise, dill pickles, and secret "swag" sauce -- all on a brioche bun. It's made for Instagram and tastes as great as it looks. Just don't tell your doctor about it.

Up north in MiMo, curious foodies will find a satisfying burger in an unassuming place: an old seedy motel. **Blue Collar** (6730 Biscayne Blvd., 305-756-0366) gets a lot of attention for its gigantic sandwiches, but it's their dry-aged cheeseburger that deserves more of the spotlight. Expect a prime New York strip on a Portuguese muffin with lettuce, tomato, and onion. That's all there is to it, but that first bite makes quite the impression.

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Looking for a bit more variety in your burger lineup? Look just a few blocks away at **Blvd Baes** (7244 Biscayne Blvd., 786-615-9661). Aside from a succulent beef burger, guests have options like a melty turkey burger and a veggie burger. There's even a Roquefort burger on focaccia if you're feeling a little fancier. For even more selections, come during breakfast or brunch. The Benedict burger is a sight to behold (and devour). Prices for all of these are in the mid- to high teens.

Sometimes, you don't want to drop a lot of money on a burger. You just want something fast, cheap, and good. Enter **Jelly and Burger** (17010 W. Dixie Hwy., Suite H, 305-760-2149) in North Miami Beach. The Venezuelan spot offers creative burgers at an incredible value. Sure, you could get a classic cheeseburger for nine bucks, but for a few more dollars, you could opt for something like the tropical "jelly" burger, with pineapple, caramelized onions, mushrooms, red pepper, arugula, and Swiss cheese. It sounds like a lot (and it is), but you'll quickly find that all those ingredients play well together.

OPENINGS

Burgers aren't the only thing we're excited about this month. Thanks to some big announcements, foodies have much to celebrate when it comes to upcoming restaurants.

Central Fare (600 NW First Ave.), the food hall inside the Virgin MiamiCentral train station, has announced a slew of new vendors, including La Estación American Brasserie, the hall's anchor restaurant from Juvia Group. The 10,000-square-foot concept will feature offerings that run the gamut from soups and salads to larger plates, like steak frites and barbecued ribs. It will be joined by local favorites, such as World Famous House of Mac and 800 Woodfired Kitchen. Opening dates are still TBD.

Casa D'Angelo (2906 NE 207th St.), a Fort Lauderdale staple, will be making its way south to Aventura later this year. Slated to open this summer in Aventura Park Square, this fourth outpost will feature a more fish-forward menu than its peers. What won't change is the roster of house-made pastas that put the chef's name on the map.

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One place that's already open is **Laid Fresh** (250 NW 24th St., 305-699-0601) in Wynwood. Developed by the team behind Kyu, this all-day breakfast joint cooks up eggy sandwiches galore, like the soft scrambled with melted brie and avocado, as well as the crispy bacon and eggs. While you wait for your food, play with some Legos or grab the headphones hanging from the ceiling to listen to some meditative music -- or some heavy metal.

CLOSINGS

The biggest closure last month: **Bazaar Mar**, which went out with a whimper. The Brickell seafood restaurant from José Andres closed its doors quietly, with just a small announcement on social media. Down the street, **Pincho** also closed down -- taking its uniquely Miami burgers with it.

Geoffrey Anderson Jr. and Dianne Rubin are co-founders of Miami Food Pug, an award-winning South Florida food blog that fuses the couple's love of dogs and food.

Send us your tips and alerts: restaurants@biscaynetimes.com

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