

barbecue moved from shacks on the side of the road to an urbanized model thanks to Brooklyn's stamp on smoked meat. But in Virginia, we've always been able to count on Rocklands, a local chainlet (three locations in D.C. and Virginia) serving the classics of pulled pork, brisket and multiple styles of ribs, plus requisite sides and a sweet-hot honey-jalapeno cornbread. **-SG** // 25 S. Quaker Lane, Alexandria and 3471 Washington Blvd., Arlington; rocklands.com

PHO PHO 75

Expect to wait in line, winter, summer, anytime. Pho 75 is the place for big bowls of broth filled with a nest of noodles and any variety of brisket, flank, meatball, tripe

or tendon. A side of vinegar-soaked noodles adds the right tang to the aromatic broth and the Vietnamese-style iced coffee provides the right jolt after all that heavy slurping. **-SG** // 721 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; pho75.restaurantwebexpert.com

KOREAN BARBECUE KOGIYA

Sure, there's all that sizzling meat and the onslaught of sides (like that custardy-brothy egg) and K-Pop on the TVs. It's a place for group dinner birthday parties and a place to keep the kids entertained with tableside cooking. But Kogiya is also about the details: Open the lid of your stool to store jackets and purses so they don't get smoky. That's putting the customer first. **-SG** //

4220-A Annandale Road, Annandale; kogiya.com

TACOS TACO BAMBAMBA

This is not just a little taco place. Coming from bold-name chef Victor Albusu, it means there's a serious commitment to quality ingredients, with some tacos leaning more traditional (carne asada, carnitas, lengua) and others with funky touches (Ranch dressing, bacon, French fries). And just as important: breakfast all-day and craft cocktails. **-SG** // Multiple locations; tacobamba.com

WINGS JIMBO'S BAR AND GRILL

Jimbo's take on this tailgate classic comes in

orders of either eight or 12 with an assortment of flavorful options to shock the taste buds, among them two dry rubs (mild and spicy) and a number of sauces such as the go-to mild, hot or Buffalo, Thai chili and tangy, honey and spicy barbecue. **-RK** // 7901 Heritage Village Plaza, Gainesville; jimbosgrill.com

BURGER MELT GOURMET

For the last six years, Melt Gourmet has been dubbed the best burger in Loudoun County. It returns this year to take our best burger title, which it won in 2015 and 2016. House-made buns—they have wheat and gluten-free options—hold the half-pound, 100 percent Angus beef burger patties, which can be topped with more than

TACO
BAMBAMBA

