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CHEFS

Joe Flamm Departs Spiaggia to Open His Own Restaurant, Ben Ford Will Head Up a New Steakhouse & More News

by Matt Kirouac — AUGUST 6, 2019



Ben Ford

Catch up on all the openings, closings, and chef shuffles this week.

Western News:

In Los Angeles, **Alan and Heidi Jackson** (both **Lemonade**) are working on a Playa Vista steakhouse called **Bull & Butterfly**, with **Ben Ford** as chef. **Emilia** is a Northern Italian-inspired newcomer in Beverly Hills. **Bee Taqueria** landed in the former **JNJ Burger Shack** space. **Smorgasburg** vendor **Porchetta Republic** secured a permanent storefront downtown. San Francisco-based **Wise Son's Jewish Delicatessen** plans an outpost in West LA. **Verve Coffee** is getting into the restaurant game with **Verve Roastery Del Sur**, coming to the Arts District. **Keith Corbin** (**Alta**) is going casual with

Louella's Cali Soul Kitchen at the forthcoming **Citizen Public Market**. **Heritage Barbecue** goes from pop-up to permanent restaurant later this year in San Juan Capistrano. **Kim Vu** and **Don Andes** pulled the plug on **Khong Ten**. **Duello** closed in the Arts District. In the Bay Area, Napa's brunch-focused **Southside** opened a third location at **South Napa Century Center**. **Brandon Kirskey (Flour + Water)** replaced his Korean-inspired **Foxsister** with Italian concept, **Great Gold**. **Josh Harris** and **Morgan Schick** (both **Trick Dog**, **Bon Voyage!**) signed on to helm the beverage program at the **Chase Center**. Japanese ramen chain **Ippudo** set its sights on Cupertino for its next location. **Isla Vida** shut its doors. In San Diego, **El Jardin** closed to re-concept, with plans to emerge as **El Jardin Cantina**; **Claudette Zepeda-Wilkins** is out as chef.

In Portland, **Maya Lovelace (Yonder)** launched a permanent location for her Southern-inspired tasting menu pop-up, **Mae**. Lebanese-inspired drinks and dishes are the order of the day at **Pettygrove Station**, newly opened in Northwest Portland. **Vaux** opens at the Canopy Portland | Pearl District August 9, with a menu of seasonal American cuisine from **Sara Woods**. **Ólafur Ágústsson (Dill)** is working on a restaurant and rooftop bar for the upcoming **Kex Portland** hotel; the former is a Nordic-inspired venture called **Vivian**, while the bar, **Dóttir**, will feature Icelandic drinks and snacks. For his next concept, **Micah Camden (Super Deluxe)** turns his attention to **Bae's Chicken**, which he's opening with **Ndamukong Suh**. In Seattle, **Brian Clevenger (Raccolto)** cooked up American bistro fare at his West Seattle newcomer, **Haymaker**. Japan's **Kizuki Ramen and Izakaya** added a Tacoma branch. Siblings **Trinh and Thai Nguyen** showcase modern Vietnamese cuisine at **Ba Sa**, due later this summer on Bainbridge Island. **Masaharu Morimoto** targets a September debut for **Momosan Seattle**, his ramen and yakitori concept in the International District. **Local Tide** washes up in Fremont later this year, featuring a menu of fresh and local seafood from **Victor Steinbrueck**. **Kate Opatz (Montana, Nacho Barracho)** is working on a Capitol Hill bar called **La Dive**. In Las Vegas, August 11 marks the local debut of **The Crack Shack** from **Richard Blais** at **Park MGM**. **Bricia Lopez (Guelaguetza)** also checks in at **Park MGM** late-August, with Oaxacan-inspired **Mama Rabbit**. **Hop Nuts Brewing** opens at **Tivoli Village** later this month. Vegan tacos are en route to the Arts District with the second location of **Tacotarian**. Louisiana-style **Pier 88 Boiling Seafood & Bar** is heading to the in-the-works Golden Spring Plaza in Chinatown. **Kenny Chye** shut down his vegan fast-food concept, **Vegeway**. In Denver, **American Grind** opened its first burger-slinging brick and mortar in Speer. **Lon Symensma** closed **BorraCho Tacos** at **Avanti Food & Beverage**.



Kyle Knall

Northeast News:

In New York City, **Stephen Starr** unveiled **Electric Lemon** at Hudson Yards' **Equinox Hotel**, with a health-minded menu by **Kyle Knall (Maysville)**. **Greg Proechel** announced his departure from **Ferris** to launch his own hospitality company. **Daniel Boulud** welcomed **Johana Langi** as executive pastry chef at **Bar Boulud** and **Boulud Sud**. **Evil Twin Brewing** opened its first permanent taproom, in Ridgewood. **Four Winters** ice cream shop scooped up its inaugural New York location in Long Island City. **Frank Castronovo** and **Frank Falcinelli** hired **Chad Robertson (Tartine)** and **Chris Bianco (Pizzeria Bianco)** to create the menus at their upcoming **F & F Pizzeria**. **Em Vietnamese Bistro** expands to Dumbo next season. Following the closure of San Francisco's **Tosca Cafe**, **April Bloomfield** returned to **The Breslin**. **Dean & DeLuca** shuttered its Meatpacking District restaurant, **Stage**. **Freek's Mill** shuttered in Gowanus. In Rhinebeck, New York, **Thomas Burke** was tapped to serve as executive chef of **Willow by Charlie Palmer** at the upcoming **Mirbeau Inn & Spa Rhinebeck**.

In Philadelphia, **Michael O'Halloran** pulled the plug on his months-old **Bistro La Bete**. In Washington, D.C., **Wolfgang Puck** brought his acclaimed steakhouse, **Cut**, to the **Rosewood Hotel** in Georgetown. The **Great American Restaurants** group rounded out its portfolio with **Randy's Prime Seafood and Steaks** in Tysons Corner. The folks behind **Barrel** opened a Capitol Hill wine bar called **The Eastern**. Latin American-inspired **Maizal** joined the lineup at **Ballston Quarter**. **North Italia** made its Virginia debut in Reston. **Casta's** brought a taste of Cuba to West End. **Graham Holdings Co.** bought **Clyde's Restaurant Group**, including high-profile mainstay **Old Ebbitt Grill**. **Penn**

Commons called it quits. **Maison Kayser** shuts down both D.C. locations this month. In Boston, the owners of **Bergamot** and **Bisq** focused on Mexican cuisine with their latest, **Taqueria el Barrio**, now open near **Boston University**. **Create Gallery & Cocktail Lounge** combined art and mixology at **Bow Market**. New York City's **OddFellows Ice Cream Co.** makes its Boston debut this week in Chestnut Hill. The **Moody's** group is filling its vacant **El Rincon De Moody's** space with a fried chicken spot, **Pollo Club**. In Montreal, New York City's **Maman** bakery is opening in Griffintown.



Mindy Segal PHOTO: COURTESY MINDY'S HOTCHOCOLATE

Midwest News:

In Chicago, **Mindy Segal (Mindy's HotChocolate)** got savory with her new pop-up, **Mindy's Burgers (And a Shake)**, running for seven months at **Revival Food Hall**. **Phil Baber** and **Amanda Torres** made it official with **Paulette's Public Market** in Pilsen. **Franklin Perdue** joined the team at **Boleo** as chef de cuisine. Inspired by contemporary American and Mediterranean flavors, **Good Fortune** opens in Logan Square next week. **Joe Flamm** exits **Spiaggia** at the end of September to begin work on his own restaurant; **Eric Lees** will step in to take over the chef role. In Detroit, **Wahlburger's** adds a Royal Oaks outpost this week. **Smith & Co.** is a modern American restaurant due this September in Cass Corridor, with an adjoining microbrewery called **Nain Rouge Brewery** to follow. In the Twin Cities, **Black Walnut Bakery** gets its first brick and mortar shop in Uptown any day now. The **Bacon Social House** debuted in downtown Minneapolis. **Mama D's Kitchen** closed at **Midtown Global Market**.

Southern News:

In Houston, **Chris Cosentino** named **Sasha Grumman (Lauderette)** chef of his soon-to-open Italian venture, **Rosalie**. Soft-serve shop **Nobibi** added its first Houston outpost. **Travis McShane** is working on a Mediterranean restaurant, **Ostia**, in Montrose. The **Understory** food hall is getting a cocktail bar, **Silver Lining**, from **Roveen Abante** and **Florenico Jopio III**. **State Fare Kitchen & Bar** expands to Sugar Land in the fall. In New Orleans, **Kristen Essig** and **Michael Stoltzfus** (both **Coquette**) unveiled their highly anticipated **Thalia** in the Lower Garden District, featuring contemporary comfort foods, snacks and pastas. **Cafe du Monde** brought its legendary beignets to City Park. In Nashville, Chicago-based **Parson's Chicken & Fish** made its local debut in Wedgewood-Houston. **Johnny Cash's Kitchen & Saloon** became the latest music-inspired restaurant and bar downtown. **B1281** is a new Hawaiian food truck hub and patio bar at the Bento Chestnut Hill development.

In Atlanta, Tucker became the latest location for **Bell Street Burritos**. Nashville's hot chicken sensation **Hattie B's** is firing up a new location in Home Park. **Anthony Spina (O4W Pizza, Nina & Rafi)** plans to expand his pizza empire with Sicilian-inspired **Pizza By the Slice** in Virginia-Highland. **Adalina** is no more. In Austin, **Toss Pizzeria and Pub** added a Westlake location. Elgin's **Southside Market & Barbecue** is branching out with an outpost at the **Shops at Arbor Walk**. **Gyu-Kaku** makes its Austin debut next year at **Plaza Saltillo**. **Tony C's** pizzeria is opening two locations of a new concept, **Tony C's Pizza and Beer Garden**. When **The Otis** hotel opens next year, it will contain a Texas-inspired restaurant **Acre 41** and a rooftop bar called **Otopia**. Los Angeles-based **Dog Haus Biergarten** plans its first Austin location for the **Center at Four Points**. **Daphne's Mediterranean** shuttered all its Austin locations. In Dallas, the Bishop Arts District got a new cocktail bar called **Botanist**. The **Pappas Restaurants** group embraces barbecue with its upcoming Plano venture, **Pappas Delta Blues Smokehouse**. In Charleston, **Holy Sticks** brought ice cream bars to Lower King. **Alex Lira (Bar Normandy)**, **Hank Weed (Chico Feo)** and **John Griffiths** are joining forces for **Bar George**, a venture focused on crudos, oysters and chili dogs that's due on James Island in October. In Durham, **Sean Umstead** and **Michelle Vanderwalker** cut the tape on their seasonally inspired cocktail bar, **Kingfisher**, with a snack menu by **Joel Schroeter (Mandolin)**.

COMMENTS

Share your thoughts, **MELISSA B**

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