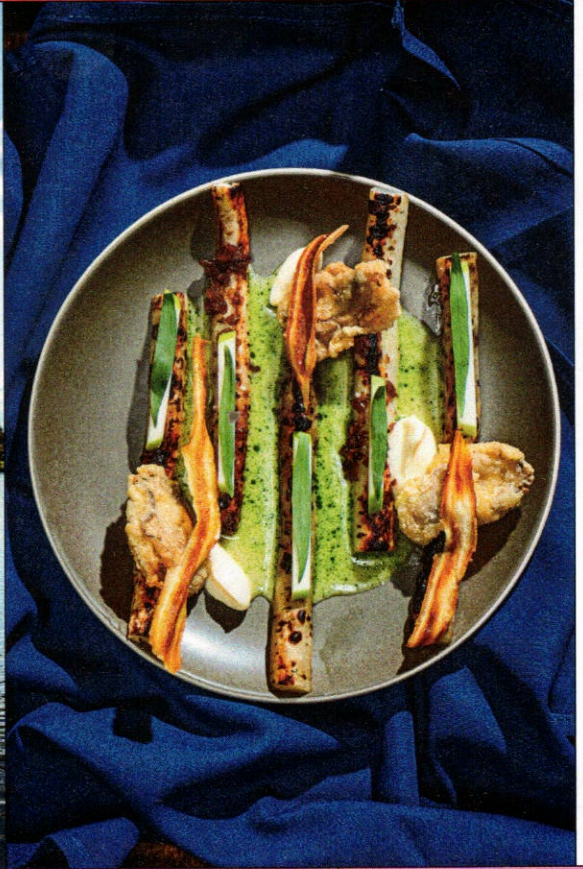


Washington, D.C.



From left: The Wharf; braised salsify root with fried oysters at the Dabney.

REQUIRED READING

When Washington Was in Vogue by Edward Christopher Williams is an acclaimed love story written and set during the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s.

DID YOU KNOW?

When the Washington Monument opened in 1884 it was the tallest structure in the world; the Eiffel Tower in Paris took the title in 1889.

DRINK UP

Try a gin rickey, with gin, lime juice, and soda water. It's D.C.'s official cocktail.

DAY TRIP

Take a train from Union Station to downtown Baltimore or head over to Old Town Alexandria, just six miles down the road from D.C.



Wander around the new waterfront and taste your way through the revitalized capital city. by *Kwin Mosby*

WASHINGTON, D.C., IS SO MUCH more than its reputation as the center of U.S. politics. It's a welcoming, walkable city with residents and regions as culturally diverse as the international embassies that line Massachusetts Avenue. Over the past decade, the city has transformed several neighborhoods—the H Street Corridor, Brookland, NoMa, Shaw, and the LGBTQ-friendly Logan Circle. The flourishing food scene attracts locals and visitors to such neighborhood anchors as Tortino (which serves elevated Italian dishes) and the Dabney, a Michelin-starred restaurant specializing in farm-to-table American fare.

But the District's newest star is the Wharf, where the second phase of a \$2.5 billion revitalization project is expected to be completed in 2022. New additions include the 131-room Pendry hotel, a tranquil 1.5-acre green space called "The Green," and several live music venues. Stroll the brick walkway to take in the serene Potomac River while eating delicious confections from District Donuts or shop for clothing, jewelry, and home decor at stores like the Black-owned fashion boutique A Beautiful Closet.

At Kaliwa, order the drunken duck noodles and other Thai and Filipino dishes. Or head to chef Philippe Massoud's new high-end Lebanese restaurant, Ilili, and try the tender braised lamb shank. Close out your night with panoramic views at the rooftop bar Whiskey Charlie. The Wharf Spiced Rum is a perfect coda to a perfect day in the district. **A**

Kwin Mosby is a travel writer and editor in chief of Vacationer Magazine, a new LGBTQ travel website.