

Restaurant Guide

EDITED BY WARREN ROJAS

MUST TRY



Summer's Bounty (Below Freezing)

"They look like rice," one coworker opined upon spying the frost-covered grains of cryogenically preserved Fruit Pearls.

But unlike rice, each pastel-colored pellet releases a torrent of exotic flavors—from a guava-mango love fest (fruitiest of the whole bunch) to mixed berries awash in vanilla-ish cream (strong raspberry and yogurt undercurrents here).

Some coworkers groused about the residual pulpiness (it is fruit-based, after all). Yet the chocolate-strawberry mix (a sweet-bitter partnership) seemed to disappear before a single kernel could thaw.—WR

Fruit Pearls currently come in six flavors: banana berry, chocolate strawberry, guava mango, strawberry, tropical and wild berries and cream. To increase your iced-citrus intake, please visit: www.fruit-pearls.com.

Alexandria

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

AKASAKA JAPANESE RESTAURANT

514 S. Van Dorn St.; 703-751-3133. Neighborhood Japanese restaurant renowned for its fresh sushi. • \$\$

CAFE MONTI

3250 Duke St.; 703-370-3632. Casual spot specializing in Austrian and Italian fare. • \$

CHEZ ANDREE

10 E. Glebe Road; 703-836-1404. Family-run French specializing in all the classics (steak au poivre, duck à l'orange, sautéed frog legs); cozy bar, colorful murals await within. • \$\$

CLYDE'S AT MARK CENTER

1700 N. Beauregard St.; 703-820-8300. A go-to item prepared in various iterations (sometimes as a flaky napoleon, others as a wood-fired pizza), wild mushrooms work best here when intermingled with gnocchi—arranging a forest of seasonal funghi, asparagus and spinach amidst tender potato dumplings. • \$\$

DISHES OF INDIA

1510 Belle View Blvd.; 703-660-6085. Popular spot for authentic Indian; tandoori dishes are favorites. • \$\$

NVM FINN & PORTER

5000 Seminary Road; 703-379-2346. If in season, go ahead and have a go at the rotating buffet of chilled oysters, many of which are brought in almost exclusively from either the Massachusetts shore (Wiannos are favorites) or plucked from the icy waters surrounding British Columbia (Giga Motos are robust). • \$\$\$

GENEROUS GEORGE'S

POSITIVE PIZZA & PASTA PLACE

3006 Duke St.; 703-370-4303. Mountainous pizzas and pastas served in a fun, upbeat environment. • \$\$

NVM HISTORIC CEDAR KNOLL INN

9030 Lucia Lane; 703-799-1501. The zarzuela de mariscos (seafood casserole) features a wonderfully flaky, fish filet (very tender, flavorful), alongside delicious jumbo shrimp, weighty scallops, plenty of fresh mussels, clams and calamari and just the right amount of saffron. • \$\$

RAMPARTS

1700 Fern St.; 703-998-6616. Sports bar serving everything from Jamaican jerk pork to vegetarian sandwiches. • \$\$

SAVIO'S

516 S. Van Dorn St.; 703-212-9651. Family-run restaurant serving traditional Northern and Southern Italian cuisine. • \$\$

TED'S MONTANA GRILL

2451 Eisenhower Ave.; 703-960-0500.

Dishing out bison burgers, steaks and meatloaf with a kick. • \$\$

YAMAZATO

HANA JUNG