

Mix, match for holidays



Colin Jack
Justthereforthebeer.com

This is the perfect time of year for beer drinkers to host their own food pairing experience and bring extra cheer to the season.

Start by picking up a variety of beer styles. Several microbrews offer seasonal mixed packages to make this task manageable and memorable.

Try a cheese platter with crackers, a few varieties of finger foods and finish with some dark chocolate.

Pour the beer samples into small glasses for sharing.

My Pick: Tree Brewing Character 12 Pack – Winter edition

Vertical Winter Ale features roasted malt flavours with a hint of vanilla that will create a sweet impression in the finish.

Also included in the 12-pack is Cut-throat Pale Ale, a biting beer with an abundance of hop character, Thirsty Beaver Amber Ale featuring biscuit flavours and hints of caramel and chocolate, and Kelowna Pilsner, a light lager with crisp carbonation and a gentle citrus hop presence.



Going vegan has its challenges. PHOTO SUBMITTED

Chefs on the take



Raj Taneja
Urbanmixer.com

It's been three weeks and I haven't broken down and had one of my vegan captors for supper. The thought of a Chianti, fava beans and what appears to be the only source of meat around here has crossed my mind.

I've been on good 'raw vegan behaviour' so my captors are taking me to Diva at the Met. Great, I know the chef, maybe he'll slip me a bit of meat.

Not so. The chef seems ... different.

Chef Quang Dang has a six-course vegan meal planned. Each course,

there's so much to rave about, but what to pick?

Was it the simple salad with a raw vegan grape jelly made with agar, or the second course, apple tartar? Maybe the warm but still raw carrot soup was meritorious of top marks. Perhaps it was the warm quinoa and pickled green strawberries.

The portobello mushroom and sake kasu mayonnaise made an impression, as did the finale – macerated berries with vanilla and lemon, cherry pearls and orange ravioli.



George menu eclectic



Sarah Rowland
Dining Chronicles

By now, we all know George Lounge (1137 Hamilton St.) makes some of the best drinks in the city (1903 Collins cocktail anyone?).

That's because the bar is really more of a kitchen. Along with an impressive list of wines, spirits, bubbles and liqueurs, George's rock-star mixology station is stocked with various mixers and fresh produce – not to mention sexy bartenders. Which is probably why the food menu gets overlooked.

Well, all that's about to change.

The Yaletown establishment has just come out with a new, ultimate finger-food bar menu, and we're not talking hot wings and potato skins. We're talking delicious Scotch quail eggs, as well as savory Yorkie bites,

which are mini Yorkshire pastries filled with saucy short ribs. English food never tasted so good. But it's not all tasty bites fit for the updated British palate.



Sexy drinks, sexy bartenders. What more could you ask for? PHOTO SUBMITTED

Death by risotto combines Italian and Asian cooking for one sinfully special flavour.

Along with these and other new items, George is still serving up classics like the thin crust pizza (\$16). There are several different topping combos, the duck confit, crisp pancetta is recommended.

Another must-try here, of course, is anything from the drink menu. That'll never change.

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