

Restaurant Activity Report—Lead Report

Current Real Estate Transactions, Leases Signed, Ownership Changes, and Business Brokerage Activity.



For restaurant contact information, please call Restaurant Activity Report at (315) 790-8151.

Fortuna Cucina Italiana

414 Arboretum Dr.
Wilmington, NC 28405
www.giorgiosgroup.com

Giorgios Bakatsias
Founder/Owner
Est. Opening Date: July 1, 2026
Publication Date: Feb. 24, 2026

Location Type: Independent
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 to \$50
Menu Type: Classic/Varied

Summary: Fortuna Cocina Italiana, a new Italian restaurant from Giorgios Hospitality & Lifestyle Group, is planned for 414 Arboretum Drive in Wilmington, North Carolina, in the former Blue Surf Arboretum West space. Founder and James Beard-nominated restaurateur Giorgios Bakatsias said the concept is envisioned as a “world class Italian restaurant” for the Wilmington market. An anticipated opening timeline has not yet been announced. Further details regarding the updated concept and timeline have not yet been announced.

Crisp Kitchen & Cocktails

132 Brevard Ct.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Matt Marena
Owner
Est. Opening Date: Mar. 31, 2026
Publication Date: Feb. 24, 2026

Location Type: Independent
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 and Under
Menu Type: Deli

Summary: Crisp Kitchen & Cocktails, a revived concept operated by Matt Marena following the acquisition of the brand from former owner Jerry McCarthy, is expected to open by the end of March at 132 Brevard Ct, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202, where the 2,100 sqft Uptown restaurant will offer salads, wraps, soups, protein-driven entrees, vegan options, and signature cocktails inspired by Mediterranean and Asian flavors.

Vitale Lakeside

1459 River Hwy
Mooresville, NC 28117

Gennaro Vitale
Founder
Est. Opening Date: May 2, 2026
Publication Date: Feb. 24, 2026

Location Type: Independent
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 to \$50
Menu Type: Classic/Varied

Summary: Vitale Lakeside, a new waterfront restaurant from Gennaro and Susan Vitale of Vitale Hospitality Group — the team behind Dilworth Social House and Midtown Tavern — is expected to open May at 1459 River Hwy, Mooresville, North Carolina 28117, where the Lake Norman concept will serve seafood, burgers, pizza, and steak in a full service lakeside setting with a floating bar and scenic dining atmosphere.

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Restaurant

501 Washington St.
Durham, NC 27701
www.m-restaurants.com

Michael Lee
Owner/Chef
Est. Opening Date: June 1, 2026
Publication Date: Feb. 24, 2026

Location Type: Independent
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 to \$50
Menu Type: Asian

Summary: Chef Michael Lee is preparing to open a new Korean restaurant at 501 Washington St. in downtown Durham, North Carolina, in the former Plum space. The concept will be the seventh addition to his M Restaurants portfolio, which includes M Sushi Durham, M Kokko, M Tempura, M Pocha, M Izakaya and M Sushi Cary. While the restaurant's name has not yet been announced, it will focus on Korean cuisine and is expected to join the lineup soon.

Duke's Kitchen & Taphouse

132 S. Fuquay Ave
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526
www.dukeskitchennc.com

Est. Opening Date: Mar. 15, 2026
Publication Date: Feb. 24, 2026

Location Type: Independent
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 to \$50
Menu Type: Bar & Grill/Pub

Summary: Duke's Kitchen & Taphouse is set to open next month, March 2026, at 132 S. Fuquay Ave. in downtown Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina, in the former Vicious Fishes Taproom & Kitchen space. The restaurant will retain the same chef, management and staff from Vicious Fishes but operate under new ownership. The menu will revive select former favorites, including pimento cheese, and the bar program will feature domestic and craft beers on tap, ciders, seltzers and a curated wine selection.

Crust & Craft

1424 Westover Terrace
Greensboro, NC 27408
www.crustandcraftpizza.com

David Valentine
Co-Owner
Est. Opening Date: Mar. 24, 2026
Publication Date: Feb. 24, 2026

Location Type: Regional
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 and Under
Menu Type: Pizza/Italian

Summary: Crust & Craft, a Georgia based pizza concept co owned by David Valentine, is coming soon at 1424 Westover Ter, Greensboro, North Carolina 27408, taking over the former Brixx Wood Fired Pizza space where the restaurant will serve specialty pizzas such as margherita and truffle mushroom alongside craft pasta, salads, and starters.

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The Forge Food Hall

2543 Ravenhill Drive
Fayetteville, NC 28303
www.theforgeatmidtown.com

Hung (Jerry) Truong
Owner - On 3 Build LLC
Est. Opening Date: June 25, 2026
Publication Date: Feb. 19, 2026

Location Type: Independent
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 and Under
Menu Type: Classic/Varied

Summary: On3Build is bringing The Forge Food Hall to Fayetteville, a new two-story, 20,000 sqft dining destination under construction at the intersection of Santa Fe Drive and the All American Freeway within the Midtown at Coalition development near Fort Liberty. Expected to open in Q2/summer 2026, The Forge will feature multiple restaurant vendors, a two-story brewery, covered outdoor seating, and a community-focused atmosphere. The project is designed to serve as a key gathering space and anchor for the growing residential area.

Koandra

2918 Bragg Blvd.
Fayetteville, NC 28303

Koandra Pearlz Kelly
Owner
Est. Opening Date: April 1, 2026
Publication Date: Feb. 19, 2026

Location Type: Independent
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 and Under
Menu Type: Classic/Varied

Summary: K'Oandra's is preparing to reopen at 2918 Bragg Blvd., the former Dirty Myrtle location, following renovations and a rebrand. Ownership shared via social media that the restaurant will return with a revised menu incorporating many customer-requested dishes. An official reopening date has not yet been announced.

Guard and Grace

111 E Carson Blvd., Ste. 100
Charlotte, NC 28203
www.guardandgrace.com

James Park
CEO
Est. Opening Date: Sep. 23, 2026
Publication Date: Feb. 19, 2026

Location Type: Regional
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$50 and Up
Menu Type: Steak/Seafood

Summary: Guard and Grace, an upscale steakhouse from Denver's TAG Restaurant Group, is expected to open fall 2026 at 111 E Carson Blvd, Suite 100, Charlotte, North Carolina 28203, where the 10,224 sqft rooftop restaurant will feature steak and seafood dishes, house made charcuterie, seasonal vegetarian options, wine, cocktails, and a full service bar with indoor dining and an outdoor terrace.

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Anjappar Chettinad Indian Restaurant

4112 Pleasant Valley Rd.
#124
Raleigh, NC 27612
www.anjapparcaryonline.com

Prakash Pete Sambat
Owner
Est. Opening Date: May 1, 2026
Publication Date: Feb. 19, 2026

Location Type: Regional
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 and Under
Menu Type: Asian

Summary: Anjappar Indian Restaurant is opening at 4112 Pleasant Valley Rd., Raleigh, North Carolina 27612. Known for its extensive menu and focus on South Indian cuisine, Anjappar offers specialties like over 20 varieties of dosa, Parotta breads, and highly flavorful Biryani rice.

Cream Sip & Scoop

410 E Market St
Greensboro, NC 27401

Est. Opening Date: Feb. 28, 2026
Publication Date: Feb. 19, 2026

Location Type: Independent
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 and Under
Menu Type: Desserts

Summary: Cream Sip & Scoop is opening February 28 at 410 E Market St, Greensboro, North Carolina 27401, where the dessert shop will offer ice cream and specialty drinks in a casual sweets-focused concept.

Spicy Pickle

450 N Patterson Ave
Suite 110
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Brandon Brock
Owner
Est. Opening Date: Mar. 28, 2026
Publication Date: Feb. 19, 2026

Location Type: Independent
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 and Under
Menu Type: Deli

Summary: The Spicy Pickle, an Italian deli concept from restaurateur Brandon Brock of Tuscani and Sage & Salt Bistro, is expected to open spring 2026 at 450 N Patterson Ave Ste 110, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101, where the deli will offer Italian sandwiches and deli fare with in house delivery service geared toward the downtown Innovation Quarter.