

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 (320) 300-4488.

Ichiban

34 Tunnel Rd
Asheville, NC 28805
www.ichibanavl.com

Est. Opening Date: 10/2/2026
Publication Date: 8/11/2026

Location Type: Regional
Lead Type: Update
Average Check: \$20 and under
Menu Type: Asian

Summary: UPDATE!! We previously reported that Ichiban Japanese Restaurant - Hibachi & Sushi Bar would reopen in early summer at its new location in Asheville. We now know the restaurant is targeting an early October 2026 reopening at 34 Tunnel Rd, Asheville, North Carolina 28805, in the former Cracker Barrel building. The new location will feature a larger, more modern space while continuing to serve the restaurant's signature hibachi and sushi.

Bittersweet

1701 Montford Dr
Charlotte, NC 28209

Lee Ann Dolcetto
Owner
Est. Opening Date: 10/1/2026
Publication Date: 8/11/2026

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

Summary: Bittersweet will open in late 2026 at 1701 Montford Dr, Charlotte, North Carolina 28209, following a two-month renovation of the former Good Food on Montford space after it closes on August 29. The restaurant is the first independent concept from Lee Ann Dolcetto, the General Manager of Stagioni and a longtime Moffett Restaurant Group employee. Bruce Moffett is handing over the space as part of his commitment to supporting longtime employees while continuing to operate Barrington's, Stagioni, Bao and Broth, and Sala.

Little Bird

9 South Front St.
Wilmington, NC 28401
www.seabirdnc.com

Dean Neff
Owner
Est. Opening Date: 10/20/2026
Publication Date: 8/11/2026

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

Summary: Award-winning chef Dean Neff and his wife, Lydia Clopton, owners of Seabird and Zora's Market & Kitchen, plan to open Little Bird, a new sister restaurant and bar at 9 South Front St, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401, in winter 2027. Located in a renovated historic building next door to Seabird, Little Bird will occupy approximately 2,200 sqft and add 55 to 60 seats across a dining room and separate 25-seat bar room, including 10 bar-counter seats. The restaurant will operate as an extension of Seabird and expand Neff's focus on sustainable seafood while adding daytime dining, guest-chef programming, and private-event capabilities. Combined, Seabird and Little Bird will be able to accommodate events of up to 150 guests. James Goodnight, Old School Rebuilders, and Smith Hanes Studio are involved in the historic restoration, construction, and interior design.

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Velvet & Vine

10501 Shadowlawn Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27514
www.velvetandvineraleigh.com

Stevie King
Owner
Est. Opening Date: 10/30/2026
Publication Date: 8/11/2026

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

Summary: Stevie and Jason King are preparing to open Velvet + Vine, a new neighborhood wine lounge at 10501 Shadowlawn Dr., Ste 107, Raleigh, North Carolina 27614, in Falls River Town Center. The wine bar is targeting an October 2026 opening, with plans to be operating in time for the holiday season. Velvet + Vine will focus on European wines and small plates, including charcuterie, flatbreads, and burrata. The concept is taking over the former Flowers and Flowers floral shop, with plans for a dark, moody interior incorporating velvet and other rich textures along with wood and stone elements. The company describes the concept as a neighborhood gathering place for date nights, girls' nights, and celebrations.

UMI Hotpot Sushi & Seafood Buffet

1805 Walnut Street
Cary, NC 27518
www.umibuffet.com

Ying Xiu Yang
Owner
Est. Opening Date: 11/1/2026
Publication Date: 8/11/2026

Location Type: Franchise
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 and under
Menu Type: Asian

Summary: UMI Hotpot Sushi & Seafood Buffet, a premium all-you-can-eat seafood, sushi, and hotpot concept, is planning its first Triangle-area restaurant at Cary Crossroads in Cary, North Carolina, taking over the former Red Lobster building at 1805 Walnut St. The concept combines a large seafood buffet with hotpot and offers selections such as sushi and sashimi, seafood, hibachi and grill items, noodles, barbecue, appetizers, and desserts. An opening date for the Cary restaurant has not yet been announced.

Meadow's Wood-Fired

325 McGill Ave NW
Concord, NC 28027
www.meadowswoodfired.com

Est. Opening Date: 9/13/2026
Publication Date: 8/11/2026

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

Summary: Meadow's Wood-Fired will open soon at Gibson Mill, 325 McGill Ave NW, Concord, North Carolina 28027. The restaurant, known for its handcrafted wood-fired pizzas, subs, and pasta made with fresh, quality ingredients, teased the upcoming expansion on social media as its second location after Mooresville.

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Shinjuku Sushi

230 E WT Harris Blvd
Charlotte, NC 28262
www.shinjuku-us.com

Est. Opening Date: 9/8/2026
Publication Date: 8/6/2026

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

Summary: Shinjuku Station is expected to open soon at 230 E. W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, North Carolina 28262. The all-you-can-eat revolving sushi restaurant will be the brand's second North Carolina location, following its High Point restaurant. The menu will feature premium sushi, nigiri, specialty rolls, ramen, hibachi, and a variety of Japanese appetizers in a tech-driven conveyor belt dining experience.

Little Flower Matcha

To Be Announced
China Grove, NC 28023

Mariana Yazmin
Owner
Est. Opening Date: 9/9/2026
Publication Date: 8/6/2026

Location Type: Independent
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 and under
Menu Type: Asian

Summary: Little Flower Matcha is expected to open soon in downtown China Grove, North Carolina. Owned by Mariana and Jesus, the cafe will be the brand's main location following the opening of its first cafe in Concord. The new shop will specialize in matcha beverages and is expected to become a community-focused gathering place.

Capital One Cafe

1520 S Tryon St
Charlotte, NC 28203
www.capitalone.com/local

Richard D. Fairbank
Chairman
Est. Opening Date: 9/7/2026
Publication Date: 8/6/2026

Location Type: Regional
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 and under
Menu Type:
Bakeries/Coffee/Snacks

Summary: Capital One Cafe is expected to open soon at 1520 S. Tryon St., Charlotte, North Carolina 28203. The first Capital One Cafe in Charlotte will combine a coffee shop with banking services, offering handcrafted beverages from Verve Coffee Roasters, breakfast and lunch items, free Wi-Fi, community workspaces, financial workshops, and self-service banking tools. The cafe will feature outdoor patio seating, a walk-up ATM, bike lockers, EV charging spaces, and will be open to both Capital One customers and the general public.

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North State Brewing Co

133 E Main St
Youngsville, NC 27596
www.northstatebrewing.com

Rob Smith
Founder/Owner
Est. Opening Date: 8/28/2026
Publication Date: 8/6/2026

Location Type: Independent
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 and under
Menu Type: Beverages

Summary: North State Brewing Co. is preparing to open in late summer 2026 at 133 East Main Street, Youngsville, North Carolina. Founded by Rob Smith and Ian Zech, the veteran-owned brewery will specialize in small-batch craft beer and handcrafted artisanal meads inspired by Carolina roots. The team recently received its certificate of occupancy and is in the final stages of obtaining ABC permits, with an anticipated opening toward the end of August 2026.

Cottage Coffee and Park Bar

2105 Umstead Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27606
www.dixparkconservancy.org

Justin Pasfield
Owner/Operator
Est. Opening Date: 8/31/2026
Publication Date: 8/6/2026

Location Type: Independent
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 and under
Menu Type:
Bakeries/Coffee/Snacks

Summary: Cottage Coffee and Park Bar are preparing to open in August 2026 inside the renovated historic Flowers Cottage at Dorothea Dix Park in Raleigh, North Carolina. The dual-concept venue will feature a cafe serving coffee, espresso drinks, pastries, and grab-and-go fare alongside Park Bar, an outdoor bar with a covered rooftop deck overlooking Flowers Field and the Raleigh skyline. The project is led by Justin Pasfield, Jeff Clarke, Dillon Myrick, and Sarah Sugg, whose combined hospitality experience includes Person Street Bar, Big Cat, Locals Seafood, Natural Science Bar, and Boulted Bread.

Aroma Indian Cuisine

905 E Main St
Clayton, NC 27520
www.aromanc.com

Gyan Joshi
Owner
Est. Opening Date: 8/30/2026
Publication Date: 8/6/2026

Location Type: Independent
Lead Type: New Opening
Average Check: \$20 and under
Menu Type: Asian

Summary: Aroma Indian Cuisine is preparing to open at 905 E. Main St., Clayton, North Carolina, in the former El Patron 323 space, with a target opening of Late August 2026, pending final inspections. Co-owner Gyan Joshi said the full-service restaurant will offer dine-in, takeout, and third-party delivery, with seating for approximately 80 to 100 guests. The menu will focus on North Indian cuisine, featuring appetizers such as samosas and pakodas, classic curries including butter chicken, chicken tikka masala, korma, and vindaloo, along with tandoori chicken, kebabs, mixed grills, and freshly baked naan. The owners are also pursuing beer and wine licenses and plan to operate seven days a week once open.
