

Dining and Drinking Suggestions for FGP24

For those of you joining us in Washington DC for the 2024 Forest Governance and Policy Conference Week (FGP24) who may wish to continue discussions with colleagues and friends into the evening, here is a list of spots curated by our local experts to suit various tastes, all relatively nearby to WRI's office.

Please note that eating out in Washington is a competitive sport – you will want to make reservations in advance for any of the restaurants listed, food halls and pubs excepted.

As in all big cities, take care when out at night; DC is not an especially dangerous city, but muggers and pickpockets tend to favor areas where there a lot of restaurants and bars.

Restaurants Near WRI

Bistro Bis – 15 E Street, NW

Located in the Hotel George (part of the Kimpton chain), a short walk from WRI up past the Irish bars towards Capitol Hill, Bistro Bis has a nice bar and is also a good upscale (but not outrageous) French restaurant – dinner reservations recommended, bar should not be too crowded though. Famous for Capitol Hill politician sightings.

Indigo – 243 K St NE

Good casual Indian food. If the weather is good, it is a nice for dining in on their covered porch area (It is mainly a take-out place in bad weather, as there is very limited table space inside. Beer and wine available, and good lassis too.

Laos in Town – 250 K St NE

Across the street from Indigo and popular. The food is more Thai than Lao, but tasty. It has a full bar.

Love, Makoto – 200 Mass Avenue, NW

A multi-restaurant Japanese emporium with food hall, bar, and some fancier parts too, Something for everyone.

L'Ardente - 200 Mass Avenue, NW

Same block as Love, Makoto if you're in the mood for something else. Big space, nice decor, upscale Italian food with nice seasonal selections.

Baan Siam – 425 I St NW

An authentic Thai restaurant with a bar within 15-minute walk from the WRI office. Reservations are recommended, but not required since they have a large seating area. A lot of vegetable options on the menu.

Wiseguy Pizza – 300 Massachusetts Ave NW

A low-key spot that serves one of the best New York-style pizza in DC. It is about 10-minute walk from WRI. The seating is relatively limited despite having both indoor and outdoor areas. They have many options for pizza slices.

If you are just looking for a pint and a pub bite near the meeting, here are three options in walking distance:

The Dubliner and Kelly's Irish Times – Corner of North Capitol Street and Massachusetts Avenue

This is the option closest to WRI, just a few short blocks away, across from the front of Union Station. These two Irish pubs, right next to each other, are, well, classic Irish pubs, as one finds all over the world. Nothing fancy, although Irish Times is definitely a bit scruffier (but has quite the whisky collection). Both have outdoor tables, nice if the weather is decent. Right across from Union Station metro stop. A brass plaque on one of the Dubliner's bars memorializes the barstool where President Obama once came in to get a pint.

Wunder Garten – Corner of L Street and 1st Street, NE

Wunder Garten is an outdoor beer garden that is a 10-minute walk north from WRI on 1st St NE. Open-air, but climate controlled, it is an informal place with a great selection of beers as well as a full bar and pub food. WRI local. Closes pretty early. FGP24 reception will be here on Tuesday the 30th.

Union Market District (Near 4th Street and Florida Ave., NE)

Union Market is a relatively new food hall complex with many places, as noted in this [comprehensive rundown](#) in the *Washington Post* from a few months ago. The Market itself closes around 8 PM, so only good for quite early dinner. But the Union Market area has many sit-down restaurants in the area as well.

Chinatown Area (Around 7th and D Streets, NW)

Jose Andres, the Spanish transplant chef to DC and founder of famous and heroic charity [World Central Kitchen](#), runs a number of very good, reasonably-priced places in DC, all clustered around 7th and E Streets, NW, not far from WRI. Make a reservation for ANY of these, they are popular.

- [Jaleo](#) – Spanish tapas with a twist. This was one of his first ventures in DC, still highly regarded and recommended.
- [Zaytinya](#) – middle eastern small plates, wonderful. Get an outside table if weather is good, can be lively/noisy inside.
- [Oyamel](#) – nouvelle Mexican (not your standard Tex-Mex), great food, great drinks, usually very lively. Highly recommended. Can be noisy, though.
- [China Chilcano](#) – across from Oyamel and ½ block up the street – upscale take-off on Peruvian “Chifa” (Chinese-Peruvian mix) food. Go for ceviche, dumplings, smaller plates and great pisco sours. A bit quieter than Oyamel.

Others worth checking out in that area include:

Rasika – 633 D St., NW

Arguably the best Indian food in DC. Reservations essential. They have a second branch, [Rasika West End](#), at 22nd & M Streets, NW, which is a bit larger and just as good. The West End location became locally famous during the Obama Administration as it was a favorite date-night spot for the Obamas.

Farmers and Distillers – 600 Massachusetts Ave., NW

Good casual food and they distill their own spirits, tasty and convivial. Diverse menu, something for everyone.

Moon Rabbit – 927 F Street, NW

A very new, high-end Vietnamese restaurant, a reborn version of the chef’s restaurant in the DC Intercontinental Hotel in the Wharf entertainment district. The old version was great, and expectations are high for the new incarnation.

Mandu – 453 K Street, NW

A family-run Korean restaurant with delicious food and great atmosphere. Reservations recommended. They also have patio tables (no reservation needed) outside. Happy hour is available on weekday evenings.

Blagden Alley (restaurant area off M and 9th Streets, NW)

Amazonia

The upstairs, more casual part of Causa, a high-end tasting menu-style Peruvian restaurant. Your menu guide author is a repeat customer. There are not many vegetarian options at Amazonia, although lots of fish. Meat-lovers should not miss the sublime Lomo Saltado. (Causa is said to be sublime, but good luck getting a reservation there.)

Tiger Fork

Asian small bites and crafts, with a “Hong Kong” feel, very good. Can get pretty noisy, but a fun place, and perfect if you just want some potstickers.

High End Cocktail Lounges

Off the Record – Hay Adams Hotel, 800 16th St NW (corner of H St. NW)

If neither beer pubs nor trendy nouvelle ethnic small plate/craft cocktail joints are to your liking, you may wish to get a taste of old-school political Washington in the basement of the iconic Hay Adams Hotel, by the White House. A true DC experience and great cocktails. “The place to be seen and not heard” is their unofficial motto. Right in the Belly of the Beast.

Quill – The Jefferson Hotel 1200 16th St, NW (corner of M St. NW)

Quill is another old school classic, the sort of place for people who like the ambience of Off the Record but think the clientele there is a bit too lowlife (i.e. politicians and lobbyists). Wonderful atmosphere and cocktails, quiet enough to actually talk.

Death and Co – Blagden Alley (restaurant area off M and 9th Streets, NW)

The Washington DC outpost of an upscale cocktail chain; DC location just opened in mid-2023. Something a bit more modern-looking than Off the Record or Quill.

Or you could just go back to your room and do email...