



# THE OTHER ARLINGTON

## CRYSTAL CITY/SHIRLINGTON/PENTAGON ROW

written by **JOY BEATTIE**

While residents on both sides of the river (Potomac, for those of you still unfamiliar with our city's landmarks) favor their respective quarters, **Arlington** is certainly giving D.C.

and Maryland a run for their money. Boasting many sub-neighborhoods, each with distinct character, the D.C. suburb is virtually impossible to fit into just one article. That's why we're breaking it into two; This month, we'll guide you through the "other" Arlington: **Crystal City**, **Shirlington** and **Pentagon Row**.

PHOTO COURTESY CHARLES E. SMITH

continued pg. 31

A masterful approach to Mexican fare, right in your backyard.

Close to our own restaurant, the finest of authentic regional Mexican food with the intriguing twist that only José Aranda can achieve.

**Oyamel**  
COCINA MEXICANA

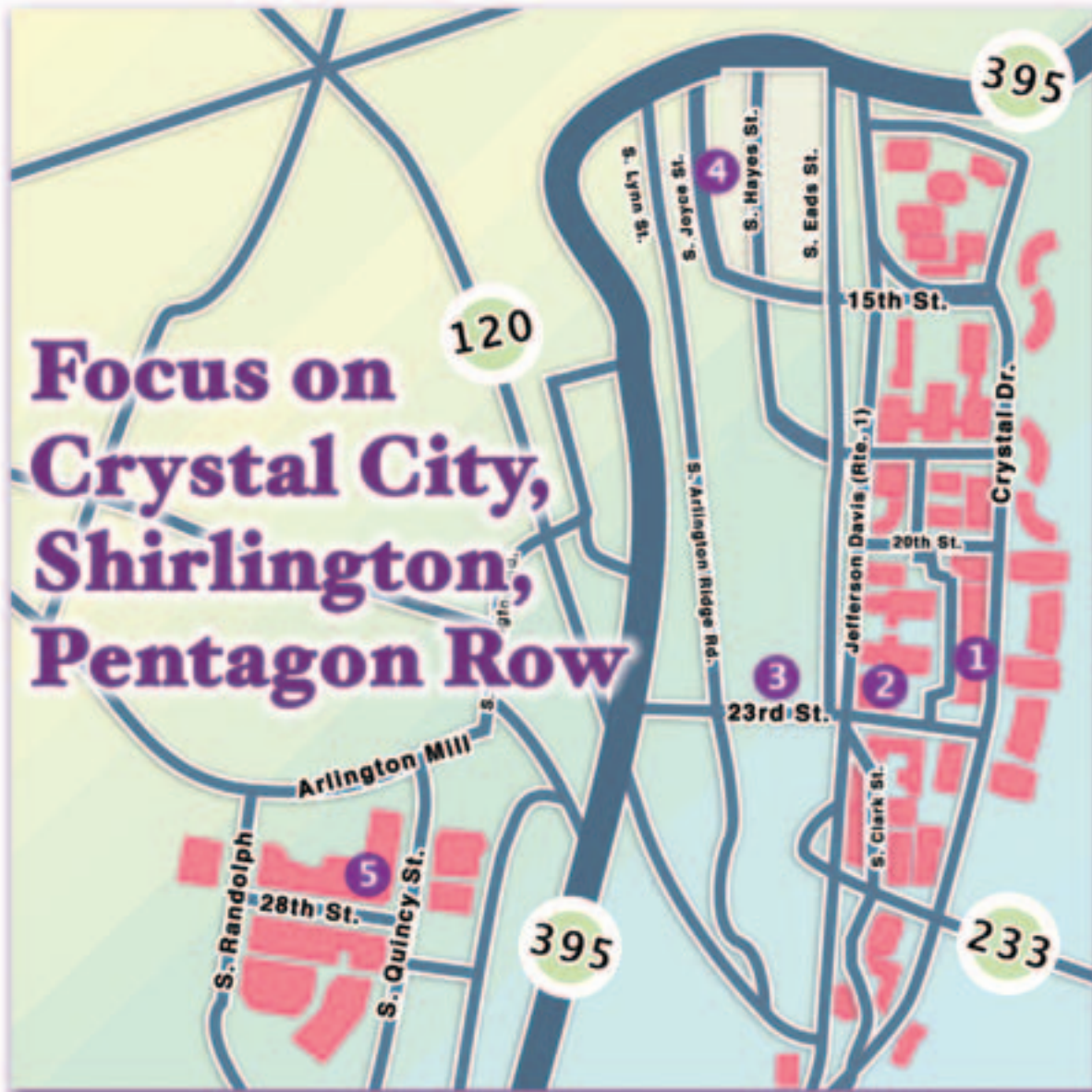
2250-B Crystal Drive Arlington, VA 22202 Tel: (703) 415-2246 www.oyamel.com

Dear John,

We ate at Oyamel in Crystal City last night. We sat at the taco bar and sipped on their signature margaritas as we watched our tacos being created before our very eyes!

Had a great time! Wish you would have been here.

Xoxo... Susan



# Focus on Crystal City, Shirlington, Pentagon Row

## Crystal City

1 2 3



**Mackey's**  
320 S. 23rd Street  
703.412.1113  
www.bedrockbars.com



**Jaleo**  
2250 A Crystal Drive  
703.413.8181  
www.jaleo.com



**Oyamel**  
2250 B Crystal Drive  
703.413.2288  
www.oyamel.com



**Urban Thai**  
561 S. 23rd Street  
703.979.0777

## Shirlington 5



**The Bungalow**  
2766 South Arlington Mill Drive  
703.578.0020  
www.bungalow4u.com



**Guapo's**  
4038 S. 28th Street  
703.671.1701  
www.guaposrestaurant.com



**Bistro Bistro**  
4021 S. 28th Street  
703.379.0300  
www.bistro-bistro.com



**Luna Grill**  
4024 S. 28th Street  
703.379.7173  
www.lunagrillanddiner.com



**Crystal City Sports Pub**  
529 S. 23rd Street  
703.521.8215  
www.crystalcitysportspub.com

## Pentagon Row 4



**Sine**  
1301 S. Joyce Street  
703.415.4420  
www.sineirishpub.com



**Lebanese Taverna**  
1101 South Joyce Street  
703.415.8681  
www.lebanesetaverna.com

Once you've exhausted all these options, we'll hit you up next month with our **Orange Line Guide** to Rosslyn, Courthouse, Clarendon and Ballston. So get out and do your homework—there's lots to see and do!

**SURE-LINGTON**

Shirlington is tucked away enough to be cozy, yet offers a supreme mix of bars and restaurants to make it a destination spot for a date or night out with friends. Dates can stroll down 28<sup>th</sup> Street and take in dinner and drinks at one of many great restaurants and take in an independent film at the end of the street at **Loews Shirlington 7** (2772 S. Randolph St., 703-671-0910). For your live theater fix, forget about entering the District and check out the **Classika Theatre** (4041 S. 28<sup>th</sup> St., 703-824-6200), where classes for adults and kids are offered, and **Signature Theater** (3806 S. Four Mile Run Dr., 703-218-6500), which hosts free readings of new works as part of their Stages program. Host to Shirlington's annual Oktoberfest, **Capitol City Brewing Company** (2700 S. Quincy St., 703-578-3888) is a prime location if you are looking to grab a few pints of a microbrew and some awesome pretzels (happy hour from 4-7 p.m. offers \$2.50 drafts and ½ price apps). Take advantage of their huge patio and watch the brewers in action in the "Brewer's Room." For a great brunch (or any other meal, for that matter), hit up **Carlyle Grand Café** (4000 S. 28<sup>th</sup> St., 703-931-0777). Their crab cakes are consistently rated among D.C.'s best, and the one-of-a-kind Warm Flourless Chocolate Macadamia Nut Waffle is ... well, guess. (I'll give you a hint: It's amazing.) Carlyle is pretty much a great dining experience whenever you drop in, but you will definitely want to call ahead for dinner or brunch! If you liked the bread you got at Carlyle, get some lunch at **Best Buns Bread Co.** (4010 S. 28<sup>th</sup> St., 703-578-1500). Fans of Whole Foods-style samples will appreciate the plate of noshings by the cash register, perfect for accompanying a cup o' joe. Best Buns makes a great mix of sandwiches and—little known fact—they have the best dog biscuits. Your dog will love you forever if you grab a Scooby Snack



PHOTO BY JENNY MAYO

and take him to **Shirlington Park** (2601 S. Arlington Mill Dr.) or **Barcroft Park** (4100 S. Four Mile Run Dr.). Both dog parks are accessible on foot, if you want to bring your dog with you into Shirlington via the trail along Four Mile Run. Want to spice stuff up? Try **T.H.A.I Shirlington** (4029 S. 28<sup>th</sup> St., 703-931-3203), the sister restaurant of well-regarded Bangkok Joe's on the Georgetown Waterfront. Along with great hospitality, T.H.A.I offers awesome seasonal menus (the Autumn Spring Rolls are to die for!) and has amazing (and cheap!) lunch specials. Sip on sangria or a tasty margarita

at **Guapo's Restaurant** (4038 S. 28<sup>th</sup> St., 703-671-4900)—it's the best when the weather lets you soak up the rays on the patio. Check out **The Bungalow** (2766 S. Arlington Mill Dr., 703-578-0020) for an eclectic mix of tiki bar, music, pool, darts and televised sports. Their extra long happy hour (from 3-8 p.m.) won't help your pool game any, but sure helps take the edge off. The cool thing about Shirlington is the cozy, neighborhood feel it maintains despite its diverse stores, restaurants and entertainment options. An addition to the strip is underway, which will bring this hot spot up to date with the

likes of Pentagon City and Clarendon. The developments are exciting, but I am hoping that Shirlington doesn't lose its class and character with the expansion.

**BEYOND THE PENTAGON**

When thinking of Pentagon City, one automatically thinks of **The Fashion Centre at Pentagon City** (1100 S. Hayes St., 703-415-2130), a gargantuan mall that rivals Tysons Corner. If you ever wanted to buy anything you would find it here. Grab a beer,

continued pg. 33 ...



The best tapas in town no longer requires a trip into D.C.

José Andrés continues to make headlines at Jaleo with his innovative take on Spanish tapas.

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3200-A Crystal Drive, Arlington VA 22202 tel: (703) 813-8181 www.jaleo.com



## Lofts 590

590 15th Street South, Arlington, VA 22202

703-413-1367

www.lofts590.com

**NEIGHBORHOOD:** Crystal City

**YEAR BUILT:** 2005

**NUMBER OF UNITS:** 212 total (comprised of studios with or without loft, 1BR with or without den or loft, 2BR with or without loft)

**AMENITIES:** Nine- or ten-foot ceilings in living rooms, 18-foot in lofts; stained concrete or dark cork flooring in living/dining/kitchen space; island or peninsula kitchens featuring stainless steel appliances, granite countertops and wall cabinets; abundant recessed lighting; linen cabinets for all baths; direct street access (in some units); gas heat and hot water; full-sized washer/dryers; private balconies; walk-in closets; 24-hour Click! Café, Caliber Sports Club, business center with conference room, and resident concierge; split-level cascading pool with sundeck; residents' lounge and party room; on-site valet and dry cleaners; immediate access to Metro, downtown D.C., major highways and Reagan National Airport.

**AVERAGE RENT:** \$1,956

**AVERAGE SQUARE FOOTAGE:** 857 sq. ft.

**DESCRIPTION:** Recently completed, Lofts 590 is situated in the rapidly expanding Pentagon City/Crystal City neighborhood. With an impressive modern facade and dramatic interiors—stained concrete flooring, frosted glass cabinets, granite countertops and more—the Lofts are some of the area's best new residences in terms of beauty and functionality. On-site you'll find amenities such as a 24-hour business center and sports club, a swimming pool and deck, and lounge/party areas. With nearby access to Metro, buses and major highways, shopping and restaurants—like those at the Crystal City Shops, Fashion Centre at Pentagon City and Pentagon Row—the property provides city-style living in Northern Virginia.

**NAME:** Cara Zalcborg

**AGE:** 25

**HOMETOWN:** Boca Raton, Florida.

**OCCUPATION:** International development consultant.

**HOBBIES:** Traveling, running, visiting museums and knitting.

**YEARS LIVED IN CURRENT RESIDENCE:** Two months (relocated from Crystal Towers on the same grounds, where I lived for three years).

**HOW YOU FOUND WHERE YOU LIVE NOW:** Relocation from Crystal Towers when Lofts 590 was completed.

**WHAT WOULD YOU TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT WHERE YOU LIVE?** It gives you the feeling of city living in a suburban atmosphere. Ultra modern design and construction, yet comfortable and not uptight.

**FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT THE PROPERTY:** The amenities (i.e. internet café, 24-hour front desk service, 24-hour maintenance, swimming pool, rooftop gym facility, beautiful lobby), convenient location (close to local restaurants and a convenient drive or Metro ride to D.C.), staff (always willing to help however they can).

**CLOSEST/BEST GROCERY STORE:** Harris Teeter at Pentagon Row (although parking is a bit of an issue at popular times of the week).

**BEST PLACE FOR COFFEE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD:** Starbucks at Pentagon Row. There is a courtyard where you can sit outside and chat with friends.

**FAVORITE SPOTS TO RELAX AND UNWIND IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD:** During the summer, at the property's swimming pool, or take a short Metro ride into D.C. to relax on the Mall or at the museums.

**BEST PLACE TO GET DRINKS WITH FRIENDS:** Oyamel and Jaleo (located directly in Crystal City) have great drinks and a fun atmosphere, or if you are into sports, there is always Crystal City Sports Pub and Champps (Pentagon Row) to watch games.

**NIGHTLIFE:** The new restaurants in Crystal City are bringing nightlife back to the area, but for a little more excitement I venture out to Clarendon or Metro into the District.

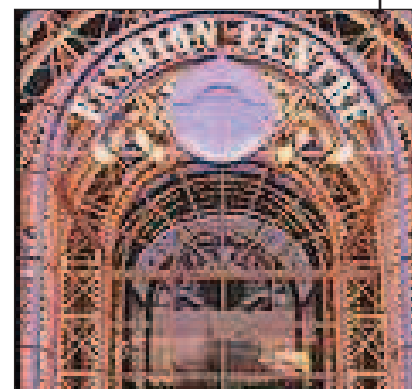
**LOCAL SHOPPING:** Pentagon Row, Pentagon City, Crystal City underground shops and Tysons Corner.

**GYM YOU GO TO:** Since the Caliber Sports Club [on-site] is so nice and they have a personal trainer and aerobics room, you don't need to join a gym, but if you wanted to, Gold's Gym is down the street.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF A TYPICAL DAY FOR YOU:** Waking up, going to work, going to the gym, dinner (either home or with friends), sleep.

**IF YOU HAD TO SAY ONE THING ABOUT YOUR HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD, WHAT WOULD IT BE?** Convenient.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE YOUR COMMUNITY WITH US, WHETHER YOU ARE A RESIDENT OR A PROPERTY MANAGER, PLEASE CONTACT [JMAYO@ONTAPONLINE.COM](mailto:JMAYO@ONTAPONLINE.COM)**



**TOP TO BOTTOM:** PENTAGON ROW, CHAMPPS' PATIO AT PENTAGON ROW, MARGARITA AT OYAMEL IN CRYSTAL CITY, FASHION CENTRE AT PENTAGON CITY, RESTAURANTS OF CRYSTAL DRIVE.

get a haircut, buy a couch—all in one stop. Just watch out for the throngs of people who are also aware of this; This mall gets packed on weekends. If you need a quiet respite, sneak away to **The Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City** (1250 S. Hayes St., 703-415-5000) for afternoon tea, served daily in the **Lobby Lounge**. Nearby Pentagon Row also offers a nice array of shops and restaurants for those with a burning hole in their pocket. Commuters frequently make this a stop, as **Harris Teeter** (900 Army Navy Dr., 703-413-1664) is one of the more accessible (and 24-hour) grocery stores for Arlington residents. Stores in the area range from **DSW** (1301 S. Joyce St., 703-412-0818), a must-visit for those with a shoe fetish, to **Hudson Trail Outfitters** (1101 S. Joyce St., 703-415-4861), when you need to grab gear for your next mountain biking expedition or trip to hike Great Falls. In colder weather, ice skate among friends in the center of Pentagon Row's activity at **Pentagon Row Outdoor Ice Skating** (1101 S. Joyce St., 703-418-6666). When it's warmer out, enjoy live music and other events in the courtyard. Work out among the good looking participants at **Bally Total Fitness** (1201 S. Joyce St., 703-416-5131). Tuesdays and Fridays they host hip hop dance classes by one of the area's hottest troupes, **X-Faction**. It's worth the \$12 (\$7 for Bally's members) to look that much cooler on the dance floor. And don't ignore your elbow workouts! Need to cool down? Grab a nice, cool iced coffee from **Starbucks Coffee** (1101 S. Joyce St.,

703-415-0601) or milkshake from **Maggie Moo's** (1101 S. Joyce St., 703-413-6611) and relax on their shaded patios. There are more places to buy home furnishings in Pentagon City than I care to admit, but **Sur La Table** (1101 S. Joyce St., 703-414-3580) is worth checking out. Not only does this vast retail store carry everything you need for the kitchen, they provide an awesome mix of cooking classes. **World Market** (1301 S. Joyce St., 703-415-7575) offers a welcome escape from the bustle of shopping. It's easy to get lost among the array of hand-carved wood frogs from Bali and imported German chocolates. There's everything from furniture to knick-knacks and picnic-sized edibles (like tiny packages of salami and single-use Heinz-57 bottles), and don't sidestep their tasty wine selection. To appease the famished feeling accumulated after shopping, enjoy a great meal at **Lebanese Taverna** (1101 S. Joyce St., 703-415-8681). This hometown chain is one of D.C.'s favorites, and for good reason: the food's amazing (try the Chicken Shawarma), the service is great, and the price is right. Patrons can enjoy the best Bass Ale in town (I swear!) and play a friendly game of backgammon while eating. If French is your favorite tongue, grab a bellini (or one of their other champagne cocktails) and a crepe at **La Creperie** (1201 S. Joyce St., 703-415-0560). Looking for something quick and reasonable? Drop in to **Noodles & Company** (1201 S. Joyce St., 703-418-0001). The Wisconsin Mac & Cheese is great when you need comfort food. **ThaiPhoon** (1301 S. Joyce

AT PENTAGON ROW YOU CAN PICK UP EVERYTHING FROM THE PERFECT BACKPACK (HUDSON TRAIL OUTFITTERS) TO THE PERFECT PINT (SINÉ).



PHOTO COURTESY CHARLES E. SMITH

St., 703-413-8200) has a jubilant décor that matches its menu and drink specials. **Saigon Saigon** (1101 S. Joyce St., 703-412-0822) has a cute patio and offers lunch box specials that exceed their modest price. If you are unfamiliar with this Vietnamese restaurant, check out their sister restaurant in Crystal City, **Saigon Crystal** (536 S. 23<sup>rd</sup> St., 703-920-3822). Ready for a drink? Head down the way just a few short steps to **Champps** (1201 S. Joyce St., 703-414-3601) where tons of TVs, frequent karaoke nights and all the wings, steaks, cold beverages you'd care

to ingest will keep you coming back for fun and games. If you prefer a wee bit of music, proceed directly to **Siné Irish Pub** (1301 S. Joyce St., 703-415-4420) for the best beers from the land of shamrocks, and some good ol' Irish tunes to boot. Try their Siné Irish Red or Irish Stout, made especially for them locally by Old Dominion. Their website mentions they'll be showing the baseball games, which might not be Irish, but cheering and making merry certainly is.

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**320 S. 23<sup>rd</sup> St., Crystal City, Arlington**

**CC ME**

Crystal City is nestled near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, several major traffic arteries and many business and apartment complexes. The cityscape may overwhelm newbies to Arlington, but a unique set of underground shops and a few key strips of restaurants and bars that shouldn't be overlooked. (1600 Crystal Square Arcade, 703-922-4636) have endured an overhaul and provide an interesting shopping experience for those that aren't claustrophobic. The entire mall is under Crystal City, which sounds a little creepy, but is really much more tame than you think, and kind of a cool thing to boast about to your buddies. **Clark Street Playhouse** and **Washington Shakespeare Company** (601 S. Clark St., 703-418-4808, 703-418-4807) provide key entertainment in the Crystal City area. Many vital restaurants are found on S. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, known as "Restaurant Row." If you are looking for Italian, look no further than **Café Italia** (519 S. 23<sup>rd</sup> St., 703-521-2565), which has a comfy, enclosed patio, and **Portofino Restaurant** (526 S. 23<sup>rd</sup> St., 703-979-8200), which is a good choice for date night. **Crystal City Sports Pub** (529 S. 23<sup>rd</sup> St., 703-521-8215) provides all sports fans a refuge and proves to be a fun hangout for pool, darts, and my favorite, foosball. This is also a clubhouse for local softball and kickball leagues and an overall pleasurable place to hang out. The enclosed patio is open year-round for drinkers and diners alike. Down the block is the sister

restaurant, **Crystal City Restaurant** (422 23<sup>rd</sup> St., 703-892-0726). For those new to the area, this is not just a restaurant. If you are going out on a date, or with the family, hit up the sports pub for dinner; However, if you feel like eating a steak while catching exotic entertainment (for those who can eat and watch a show at the same time), this is the only strip club in Arlington. **Legal Sea Foods** (2301 Jefferson Davis Hwy., 703-415-1200) provides an extensive array of seafood that you can't go wrong with (and some of the best clam chowder I've ever had in my life). **King Street Blues** (1648 Crystal Plaza Arcade, 703-415-2583) serves American cuisine and provides live blues in a casual setting. They have all kinds of fun paper mache people/critters tacked to the walls, which create a whimsical backdrop for your dining experience. I recommend **Lebanese Village** (549 S. 23<sup>rd</sup> St., 703-271-9194) for their fantastic hummus. Whatever you eat here, you have to get the Lebanese beer, Almaza, which is ten times better than most pilsners (again, trust me). Everyone needs a nice steak dinner, which can be had at **Morton's, The Steakhouse** (1631 Crystal Square Arcade, 703-418-1444). Meals here are pricey, but for a steak-eater who likes fine dining, this is the place to go. **Ruth's Chris Steak House** (2231 Crystal Dr., 703-979-7275) is also an option for an impressive meal. Amaze a date at **Skydome Lounge**, the area's only revolving rooftop bar/lounge (300 Army Navy Dr., 703-416-4100), located at the top of the **DoubleTree Hotel**. This restaurant boasts a spectacular 360-degree view, and cocktails taste so much

better when it's beautiful. If the spinning makes you ill, opt for **Windows on Washington**, DoubleTree's non-rotating, but equally elegant dining option. When pub-crawling, you can't miss **James Mackey's Public House** (320 S. 23<sup>rd</sup> St., 703-412-1113), sister restaurant to the Mackey's in the District. The second coming of **Bailey's Pub and Grille** (2010-A Crystal Dr., 703-416-0452) has arrived in Crystal City. Smaller and sleeker than the original pub, this Bailey's offers more of a pub atmosphere than its giant predecessor, located in Ballston Mall. Near Bailey's are two new tapas restaurants; The first, **Jaleo** (2250-A Crystal Dr., 703-413-8181), has crossed the bridge into the Commonwealth, finally. This, considered the restaurant that made **José Andrés** famous in the city, was one of the first staples of the new Crystal City redevelopment. Crystal Drive is now a two-way street, and is literally blossoming with new restaurants, shops and cafes. **Oyamel** (2250 Crystal Dr., 703-413-2288), serving upscale Mexican tapas (unlike Jaleo, which features Spanish-style tapas), is another Andrés creation, but complements the street's offerings, rather than competing against its own sister. The festive décor—butterflies suspended from the ceiling, for one!—and menu—try the Oyamel



FOR SPECTACULAR VIEWS OF THE CITY WITH YOUR MEAL, IT'S HARD TO BEAT THE SKYDOME LOUNGE.

Margarita, which comes with salt foam atop the tasty lime/orange zesty liquid—make for a great evening outside the city, whether you live in the District or in the 'burbs.

Arlington has a lot to offer everyone. Lovers of any kind of cuisine or dining experience can find it here. Anyone with the itch for shopping can take advantage of the underground stores at Crystal City, ginormous Pentagon City mall, or intimate Pentagon Row stores and shop their hearts out. Bar-hoppers can Metro to their hot spots, or easily crawl their way to the next pub on foot. From the strip clubs (well, club), to Sunday brunch, you can find anything you're looking for in Arlington, without crossing any bridges.



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