

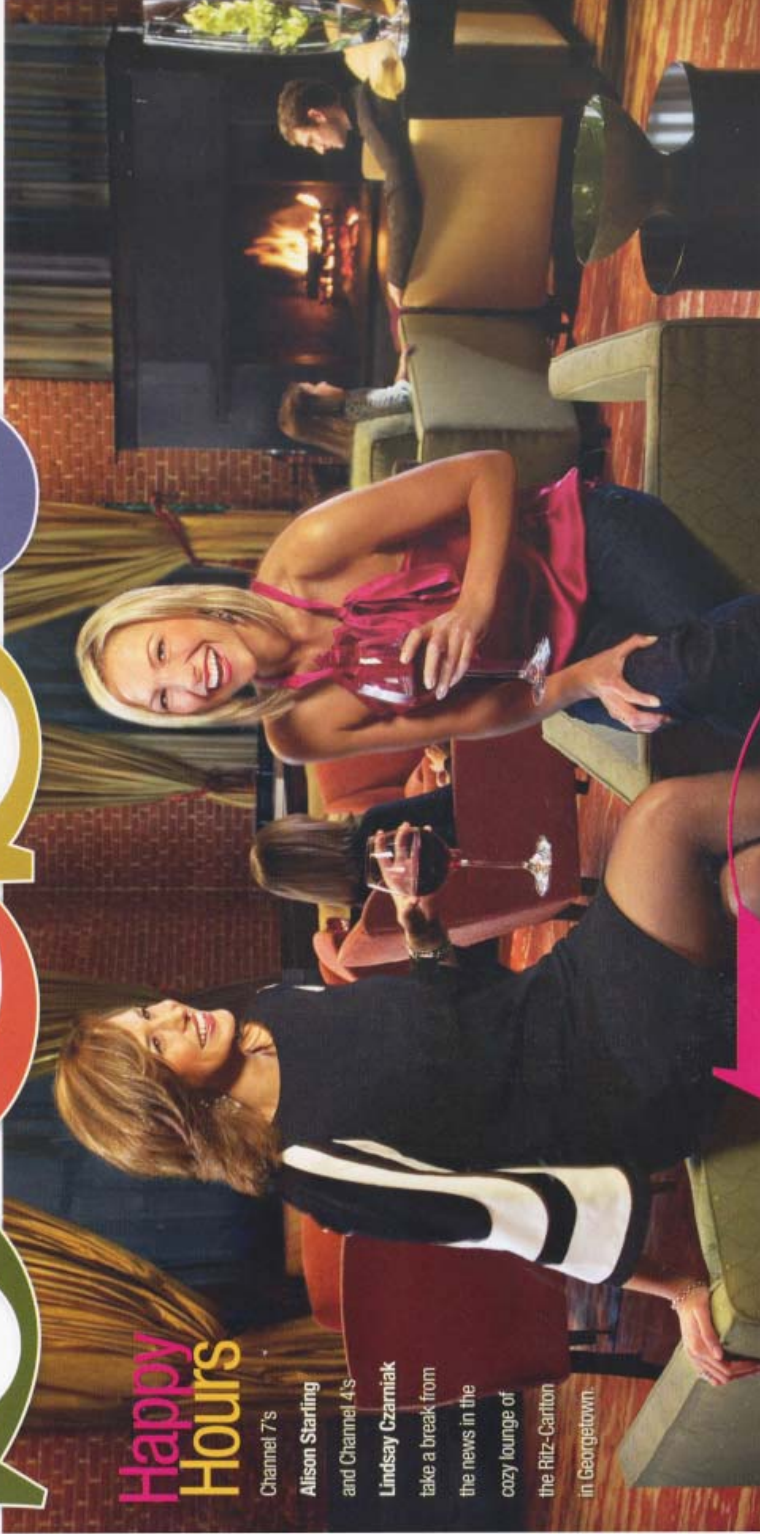
Top Lawyers ✪ Readers' Favorite Restaurants ✪ Great Makeovers  
 Joe Theismann Sounds Off ✪ US to World: Thank You for Smoking

# WASHINGTONIAN

Cozy Winter Spots  
 Fun Kids' Parties  
 Olympic Hopefuls  
 Furniture Finds  
 Farmers Markets  
 Ways to Be Green  
 Ski Adventures

## Happy Hours

Channel 7's  
 Alison Starling  
 and Channel 4's  
 Lindsay Czarniak  
 take a break from  
 the news in the  
 cozy lounge of  
 the Ritz-Carlton  
 in Georgetown.



plus!

## Great Nights Out

Standout Restaurant Dishes  
 Unbeatable Bargains  
 Flirty Shoes  
 Home Dinners Made Easy  
 Takeout Chicken  
 and Lots More Bests

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\$3.95

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At Ray's the Steaks in Arlington, cuts such as this New York strip are generously carved and reasonably priced.

Franco-American bistro also offers lobster, tuna, and shrimp patties.

3. **Palena Cafe**, Cleveland Park. Frank Ruita's hand-ground beef burger with truffled cheese is \$10 worth of pure bliss.

### BEST SEAFOOD

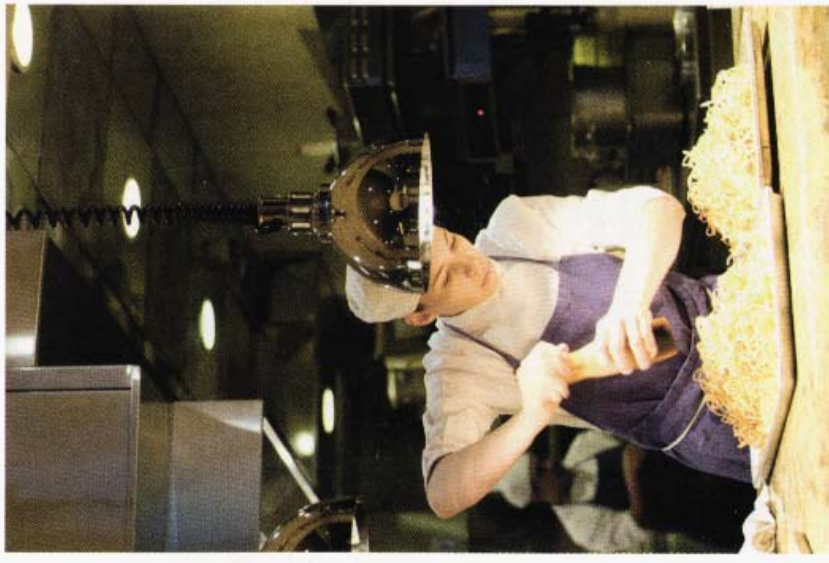
1. **Kinkead's**, Foggy Bottom. Signature dishes range from lunchtime lobster rolls to pepita-crusted salmon.
2. **Océanaire Seafood Room**, downtown DC. Everything, from the plates of fresh fish to the baked Alaska, is supersized.
3. **McCormick & Schmick's**, eight area locations. This Portland-based chain offers 30-plus varieties of seafood daily.

### BEST AMERICAN

1. **Clyde's**, nine locations. Each of these saloons has a distinct feel, from the brass-laden Georgetown original to a newly opened Loudoun County farmhouse.
2. Tie: **Blue Duck Tavern**, West End. Hearty, wood-fired meats with pairings such as bourbon-soaked peaches and roasted tomatoes. **Carlyle**, Shirlington. Winning service and approachable, satisfying comfort food.
3. **Artie's**, Fairfax. A comfy family favorite with everything from Tex-Mex egg rolls to Creole pasta.

### BEST BISTRO

1. **Central Michel Richard**, Penn Quarter. Charcuterie, ratatouille, and ... a banana split? Richard's bistro is full of surprises.



2. **Brasserie Beck**, downtown DC. The best seats at this Belgian spot are in front of the action-packed open kitchen.
3. **Bistro du Coin**, Dupont Circle. Loud and crowded, with good, cheap steak frites.

### BEST ITALIAN

1. **Ristorante Tosca**, Penn Quarter. This expense-account favorite offers ethereal pastas.
2. **Filomena**, Georgetown. A long list of towering cakes caps off an Italian-American menu.
3. **Zeffirelli Ristorante**, Herndon. Hearty, Tuscan-inspired cooking.

### BEST GREEK/MEDITERRANEAN

1. **Zaytinya**, Penn Quarter. José Andrés's hip mezzeteria modernizes Greek, Lebanese, and Turkish classics.
2. **Lebanese Taverna**, five area locations. Fantastic hummus and layered *fattoush*.
3. **Komi**, Dupont Circle. Twentysomething chef/owner Johnny Monis is one of the hottest talents in town.

### BEST VIETNAMESE

1. **Huong Que (Four Sisters)**, Falls Church. A gracious, orchid-strewn Eden Center dining room.
2. **Pho 75**, five area locations. Local chefs love to fuel up at these soup spots.
3. **Taste of Saigon**, Rockville and McLean. Go for lime-marinated steak, lobster salad, and anything with black-pepper sauce.

### BEST INDIAN

1. **Rasika**, Penn Quarter. A gorgeous, amber-lit dining room showcases chef Vikram Sunderam's creations.
2. **Heritage India**, Glover Park. Lovely stews and curries, vegetarian and not.
3. **Indique**, Cleveland Park. A pretty setting for tandoori specialties and tamarind margaritas.

### BEST SOUTH AMERICAN

1. **Ceiba**, downtown DC. Jeff Tunks's chic Nuevo Latino spot for ceviches and mojitos.
2. **Café Atlántico**, Penn Quarter. Killer margaritas, guacamole made tableside, and one of the most interesting brunches.
3. Tie: **El Pollo Rico**, Arlington and Wheaton. The Peruvian-style char-broiled chicken has legions of loyal followers. **Fogo de Chao**, Penn Quarter. All-you-can-eat gaucho-style beef in an Adamstein & Demetriou-designed dining room.

Central Michel Richard, a new bistro, serves a mix of French- and American-style indulgences.