

# Calexico in the park

## Plus all the other restaurant news

**Foodie-in-Chief**  
By Kristen V. Brown

It's been another tasty fortnight in the borough of Kings. Load up on Brooklyn's latest openings, closings, and of course, a healthy helping of gossip.

**Tacos with a view:** Finally, Calexico's seldom-avaliable tacos are now available at Brooklyn Bridge Park. Hungry taco junkies can head to Pier 1 at the foot of Old Fulton Street in DUMBO seven days a week for some south-of-the-border goodness.

**Little Italy in Fort Greene:** Fort Greene now boasts five Italian spots; the newest, Dino, opened earlier this month from a veteran of Manhattan's celebrated Frank. Expect rustic, Italian comfort food and an extensive Italy-focused wine list.

**No 'Jive':** Clinton Hill's esteemed turkey joint Jive Turkey is back in business after closing up shop to move down the block. Visit the new locale, now on Myrtle Avenue



Bridge view: Calexico owner Brian Vendley shows off his chicken and pork taco — and the great view from his new food cart at Pier 1 in Brooklyn Bridge Park.

between Emerson Place and Classon Avenue, and get yourself some deep-fried turkey heaven.

**Java jonesing in Ditmas Park:** Good news for coffee lovers: friends in Ditmas Park comes from

the team behind Prospect Heights' beloved Milk Bar. A French-inspired coffee shop, christened Café Madeline, should open in September on Cortlyou Road.

**Wine On:** The Clinton Hill coffee

shop Nero Doro has added wine and beer to the list of attractions. After much delay, area residents can now head to the café until 11 pm (midnight on weekends) for a glass of the red, white or bubbly.

**Pizzal Pizzal:** Early signage may have pronounced that "Il Cantuccio" was coming to the corner of Smith and Ninth streets, but the slice joint has actually opened as Il Cantuccio.

**Bed-Stuy rising:** Tin City Drug and General Store is set to open sometime in the not-too-distant future, bringing Bed-Stuy organic foods, personal care products, a soda fountain and ice cream.

**More liquor for Clinton Hill:** Rumor has it that the hotly anticipated Fulton Grand Bar was finally set to open this weekend on the corner of Grand and Putnam avenues. The owners could not be reached for comment, but fingers crossed: This troubled corner is in dire need of a good watering hole.

**To market, to market:** A gourmet café and market, Beny's Delice, has opened on Fulton Street, near Vanderbilt Avenue. The shop boasts an array of quiches, sandwiches, tarts, croissants, coffee and the like.

## ATLANTIC...

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Manhattan Paces in Park, the aptly named Vintage Sign, which opened four years ago, crams a wonderland of French memorabilia into a little space smaller than your bedroom. There isn't really enough room to fit all the Cinzano signs, French-looking lamps, and antique wooden chairs spill out onto the sidewalk.

Besides signs, there are beer trays, 1960s concert posters, and a record collection with albums ranging from two backs to \$200. There's even a pinball machine.

**Vintage Signage** (334 Atlantic Ave. between Smith and Hoyt streets in Boerum Hill, (718) 834-9268).

**9. Clover's Fine Art Gallery and Café**

Someone stuck a café inside an art museum.

Clover Barrett, owner of Clover's Fine Art Gallery and Café, has made it possible for you to order a cup of coffee, or if you're feeling fancy, a glass of wine, bring it into the middle of the gallery, and sit on one of those hot benches that you'd find in a museum.

Now that's the life.  
Clover's Fine Art Gallery and Café (338 Atlantic Ave. between Smith and Hoyt streets in Boerum Hill, (718) 425-2121).

### 10. Jodi Arnold NYC

Atlantic's so hot that even high-end fashion designers are heading its call. Designer Jodi Arnold is the latest example. She'll open her high-end, contemporary women's fashion boutique on the strip this Saturday.

Arnold was drawn to the area for its lack of pretense.

"Brooklyn isn't as transient as other parts of the city; it reminds me of home," said Arnold, who's an Alabamian. "Most people wouldn't put Brooklyn and Birmingham in the same sentence, but they both have a sense of community and warmth."

Jodi Arnold NYC (347 Atlantic Ave. at Hoyt Street in Boerum Hill, no phone). Closed Monday and Tuesday.

### 11. Mile End

This six-month-old Montreal-style Jewish deli offers a take on pastrami — or, "smoked meat" — that is so good that you'll forget there even is a Katz's.

And owner Noah Bermanoff even sells a version of the Quebecois classic poutine (\$5) that makes you realize what all the French Canadian passion for the gray-covered fries is all about.

Mile End (97A Hoyt St. between Atlantic Avenue and Pacific Street in Boerum Hill, (718) 852-7510).

### 12. Deity

Deity opened in 2005 in a former

synagogue, and remains one of the area's only nightclubs. Last fall, Boerum Hill revelers had even more to be excited about, when the spot added food to its repertoire, turning the main room into a supper club.

The food's not a second thought, either: rising culinary star Cesar Ramirez, of the nearby Brooklyn Fare, created the menu, with standouts including the deconstructed Caesar salad (\$8) and braised short ribs (\$17).

"As Deity gets more popular, we find more creative ways to use the space," said bartender Blake Galatas.

The joint even does bar mitzvahs!

Deity (368 Atlantic Ave. between Hoyt and Bond streets in Boerum Hill, no phone). Closed Monday and Tuesday.

### 13. Loretta's Coffee and Tea

From the avenue, it's as plain as its name, but out back, this no-frills, year-old coffee shop offers up a little slice of Eden, apple tree and all (well, the tree is in the neighbor's backyard, but still!).

The lush backyard comes with some beautiful blooming trees of its own lending some shade to the coffee connoisseur. Loretta's brews locally roasted beans from Ozza's in Park Slope, and nothing costs more than \$7 from the light menu of pa-

strinis and salads.

Loretta's Coffee and Tea (407 Atlantic Ave. between Bond and Nevins streets in Boerum Hill, (718) 237-8880).

### 14. Rothschild's

In response to the changing neighborhood, restaurant Williams closed down his New Orleans-style restaurant and opened in its place a "more local" joint.

Rothschild's, which opened last month, serves fresh American fare with a lingering hint of NOLA. Entrees top out around \$16—including the mighty fish special — making Rothschild's a place where locals can eat at several times a week.

Rothschild's (411 Atlantic Ave. between Bond and Nevins streets in Boerum Hill, (718) 596-3110).

### 15. Betty Bakery

The Twinkie finally goes gourmet. Yep, Betty makes the popular mind-altering snack cake along with another classic favorite, Ring Dings, at this four-year-old bakery.

But this bakery doesn't stop at low-brow junk food. Rising tall above the hot polka confectations stand towering cakes of epic proportions, shining with unbridled sophistication. That's for adults.

Betty Bakery (448 Atlantic Ave. between Nevins Street and Third Avenue in Boerum Hill, (718) 246-2402). Closed Mondays.

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