

# The Washington Post

tside metropolitan Washington.

The Washing  
Partly sunny 54/40 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 55/36 • DETAILS, B8

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2011

washington

## Weekend

Going Out Guide



40  
reasons to  
ditch the diet  
Page 18

### Falafel and frites at Amsterdam Falafelshop

Sure, the fried-to-order falafel and frites are irresistibly crunchy, but this Adams Morgan institution, but as Amber Wilkie of Arlington noted, "The allure of Amsterdam, without question, is the toppings bar — a veritable wonderland of Middle Eastern relishes, pickles, spreads and condiments. It's impossible to fit everything into your pita, though it is possible to try and wind up very messy."

\$4.25 for a small falafel and \$2.95 for a small order of frites; \$5.95 and \$3.95, respectively, for a large. 2425 18th St. NW. 202-234-1969. [www.falafelshop.com](http://www.falafelshop.com).

**Editors' Picks**  
edskins,  
lizards and  
escent City  
nds. 3

**NightLife** Still  
need something  
to do on New  
Year's Eve? It's  
not too late. 10

**Exhibit** Two  
photographers.  
48 images. One  
interesting  
conversation. 1

## 40 tempting D.C. dishes

BY LAVANYA RAMANATHAN

**W**ith the new year fast approaching, we might have dedicated these pages to yet another list of workouts and other self-flagellating resolutions. We, however, have decided to go another direction. We're fully devoting ourselves to the one resolution we want to stick to: To eat, and eat well.

To that end, we spent months eliciting reader help in pointing us to Washington's most necessary eats, the dishes no local should go without consuming at least once (and preferably at least once a week).

The resolution-breakers. Nominations poured in from readers who took to Facebook, Twitter and our Going Out Gurus blog to pen flowery love letters to frites,

milkshakes and the city's most superlative slice of white pizza. Some of our readers' favorite dishes elicited knowing squeals from staffers. — for journalistic purposes, of course.

Culling through these calorie wonders, we gleaned insights about the surprisingly egalitarian animal that is the Washington foodie.

We have, for example, a thing for gas stations: No fewer than three list. Although pancakes and burgers won a few nods, voters overwhelmingly displayed a passion (and palate) for ethnic foods — from chaats to pupusas. Kebab joints drew more nominations than four-star establishments. And it seemed that every reader had a favorite purveyor of Peruvian chicken, leaving us wondering whether it is rotisserie chicken, and not the

half-smoke, that is truly Washington's most beloved dish.

Below, in no particular order, find 40 of the best reader-recommended dishes in Washington. Then visit [goingoutguide.com/restaurants](http://goingoutguide.com/restaurants) to see a photo gallery with a mouthwatering look at every slice, sandwich and taco that made the cut.

And to those of you determined to stick to your new year's diet? Eat your heart out.

**Let us know what you think!**

Did we miss your favorite D.C. dish? Let us know at [goingoutguide@washingtonpost.com](mailto:goingoutguide@washingtonpost.com), and we'll post more favorites on our blog. Or go to [goingoutguide.com/restaurants](http://goingoutguide.com/restaurants) to see our photo gallery of all 40 dishes and leave a comment about your essential eats.