

Where to eat and drink on the new Vancouver waterfront: Gerry Frank's picks

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A 90-foot pier extending over the Columbia River is shown from a plaza along the Vancouver Waterfront on Aug. 21, 2018. WildFin American Grill is shown at right. (Elliot Njus/Staff)

By [Special to The Oregonian](#)

The much-anticipated urban development project at the Vancouver waterfront has brought new life to the heart of the city (and to downtown Portland) with new office, residential and recreational properties. During my visit after its grand opening, it was clear that this urban oasis was still a work in progress, but the half-mile park as well as the completed projects and restaurants were bustling and beautiful. Expect to see the opening of a new hotel, additional residential properties, a pizza place, brewery and a winery in 2019.

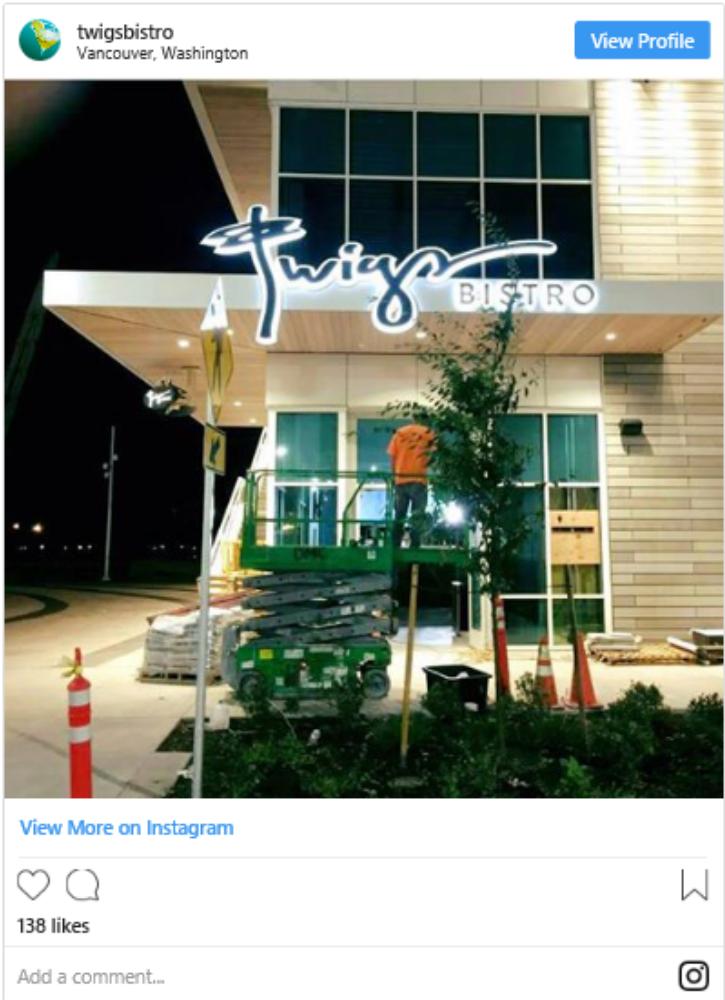
The first occupant to take its place and open its doors on the riverfront was [WildFin American Grill](#) (777 Waterfront Way, Suite 101, Vancouver; 360-718-7701). Situated in the midst of the waterfront with Columbia River views, the establishment takes advantage of the beautiful scenery with its open floor plan, large windows and outdoor patio, making it an inviting stop from the get-go.



Inside WildFin American Grill in Vancouver. (Mark Graves/Staff)

Both lunch and dinner options incorporate locally sourced meats, seafood, fresh fish and produce. Great starters include Face Rock cheddar fondue and calamari. A few recommended signature dishes that are offered during both lunch and dinner include a fresh and crisp harvest salad - a particularly good choice for those with gluten or vegetarian restrictions - pan-roasted chicken breast and chili prawn macaroni and cheese. The fish tacos are especially popular for lunch while the grilled ribeye tends to be a popular choice for dinner. I suggest saving room for dessert and taking advantage of the season with fresh Washington apple-caramel cobbler. Beverages include barrel-to-bar Oregon and Washington wines, bottled and draft beer, wine and cocktails.

Experience the fabulous service, food and views for yourself 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and until 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday.



[Twigs Bistro and Martini Bar](#) (801 Waterfront Way, Suite 103, Vancouver; 360-726-4011), a bistro-bar combo, is another great waterfront spot to soak in the sweeping views of the river amongst friends and shake off a long day. The outdoor seating area is just steps away from the river and is especially inviting on nicer days and evenings; the interior is chic with a great ambiance. Although the expansive list of signature cocktails is the focus here, local draft beer, and wine, also are available. Local seasonal products make up the menu, which includes American-style dishes like pizza, sandwiches, salads, pasta and more. Hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, extended to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. With its recent opening, reservations are recommended.

--Gerry Frank