

M a d e r a

Located just two blocks from the Hotel Madera, is Dupont Circle. Explore Dupont Circle and you'll discover dozens of bistros, bars, boutiques and museums, as well as the vibrant stretch along 17th Street famed for its gay-owned businesses.

Every day of the year, laid-back locals and savvy visitors flock to the Dupont Circle fountain to read, people-watch and meet up with others. We highly recommend getting in some time there, too.

This cosmopolitan neighborhood offers a little something for everyone. An array of unique shops and exciting restaurants along Connecticut Avenue, one of the busy streets in the neighborhood, is exciting enough to keep you going all day.

Art-lovers can gallery hop around for First Friday Dupont or experience America's first museum of modern art, The Phillips Collection. Globally minded folks should trek down Embassy Row, which starts on Massachusetts Avenue and cuts right through the circle.

As far as food goes, expect that international flavor of embassies to rub off on restaurants. Dupont's dining spots radiate outward from the central circle and include a diverse mix of marquee restaurants, casual bistros, brunch hot spots and late-night dining options. Check off a Michelin-starred dining experience at Sushi Taro, one of the District's best Japanese restaurants (Chef Nobu Yamazaki's kaiseki, or tasting menu, is not to be missed), or sample globally-inspired farm-to-table fare at The Pembroke.

A can't-miss activity in the neighborhood is joining the throngs of locals on Sundays who visit the year-round Dupont Circle farmers' market (one of our favorite farmers' markets in the District) in front of the Metro station entrance on Q and 20th streets.

Along Dupont Circle's famed 17th Street, JR's is a mainstay, as the bar has been serving LGBTQ patrons for three decades. Despite the "Grill" in the title, the popular happy hour spot does not serve food (besides popcorn), making it a casual retreat with impressive drink specials and daily events. Check out showtunes on Mondays and Family Feud-style trivia on Wednesdays. Sundays are especially wild thanks to ridiculously well-priced vodka specials and beer pong games upstairs.