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Published: Jul 18, 2007 04:30 AM

Modified: Jul 13, 2007 01:47 PM

Revolution in downtown Durham

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This week brings news of a Revolution and a couple of reincarnations to the local gastronomic scene.

Jim Anile, until recently executive chef at Il Palio in the Siena Hotel, has struck out on his own. He has his eye on a space in the historic Baldwin's Department Store building in downtown Durham, where he hopes to open **Revolution** by late November. Anile is best known locally for the contemporary Italian fare he created at Il Palio, but his culinary background prior to moving to the Triangle includes work in the cuisines of three continents, including five years in the early 90s with an exclusive Thai hotel chain. He plans to draw on all of his experience to create a globetrotting offering of mostly small plates, which he's calling an "a la carte degustation menu." He probably wouldn't object, however, if you just want to think of it as tapas style.

When I spoke to Anile, he was clearly excited about his newfound culinary freedom. He's making his restaurant accessible to a wide range of budgets, too, with prices in the \$7-\$17 range, and an extensive selection of affordable "little gem" wines to match. "I'm looking forward to being free to cook whatever I want to cook," Anile says. Having sampled what he can do when he's limited to a single cuisine, I'll add that I'm looking forward to it, too.

Meanwhile in downtown Raleigh, **Capital City Grocery** has reopened under new management. According to store manager Mason Weems, the new, improved CCG will have a stronger focus on serving the nearby community, stocking a well-chosen selection of basic grocery items, as well as a salad bar, hot bar, sushi and an expanded selection of prepared meals to go.

The new owners, a diverse group of partners from the local community, also aim to attract customers from beyond the surrounding neighborhoods with an emphasis on local and organic produce, meats and seafood, as well a strong selection of gourmet goods, including a good selection of beers, wines, locally roasted coffees and imported wares (especially Greek and Italian). In a week or two, Weems, says, beer and wine will be served in the evenings at the coffee bar.

In Cary's Kildaire Plaza shopping center, **Fuji Yama** has reincarnated as a leaner, meaner version of a Japanese steakhouse. New owner Sam Chen has removed all the teppanyaki tables and refurbished the dining room in attractive, Asian-inflected earth tones. Japanese steakhouse fare is now prepared in the kitchen, where, according to Chen, "we can cook the food better when we don't have to do the show."

Otherwise, Fuji Yama's extensive Japanese menu remains substantially unchanged. Guests are still greeted by a fountain and a bar just inside the door, and the sushi bar at the back of the restaurant still offers a broad assortment of sushi, sashimi and salads. Fuji Yama is open seven days a week, serving lunch and dinner.

Greg's Hot List: Salad days

Ah, summertime in the South. Daytime highs usually get into the 90s, with the humidity not far behind. Sounds like the perfect time for a nice, cool, crisp salad. Here are some of my favorites.

[Foster's Market](#), 2694 Chapel Hill Boulevard, Durham; [Midtown Market](#), 750 Airport Rd., Chapel Hill; 489-3944 (Durham); 967-3663 (Chapel Hill); veggie sampler plate (choice of 3 salads, with options including tarragon chicken, fresh fruit and mixed seasonal greens)

[J. Betski's](#), 10-120 West Franklin St., Raleigh; 833-7999; smoked trout salad.

[Lotus Leaf Cafe](#), 969 N. Harrison Ave., in Northwoods Market, Cary; 465-0750; green papaya and mango salad (seasonal).

[Maximillians](#), 8314 Chapel Hill Road, Cary; 465-2455; grilled Caesar salad.

[NOFO](#), 2014 Fairview Road, Five Points, Raleigh; 821-1240; black & blue salad.

[Porter's City Tavern](#), 2412 Hillsborough St., Raleigh; 821-2133; fried chicken Cobb salad.

[Rue Cler](#), 401 E. Chapel Hill St., Durham; 682-8844; salade verte.

[Sage Cafe](#), Timberlyne Shopping Center, 1129 Weaver Dairy Road, Chapel Hill; 968-9266; tropical salad.

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