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BY KIM CARTER/PHOTOS: JENNIE

Rhode Island got 41 new restaurants, breweries and wineries in 2021. Check them out.

Kim Carter The Providence Journal
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The phrase heard most often in discussions about the dark days of a pandemic. Yes, there have been losses and they are sad. But there have been so many new ones.

Dozens of chefs, bakers, brewers and small business owners have opened new restaurants, breweries, wineries and food businesses in Rhode Island during coronavirus, forcing, or the pushing of equipment and furniture, and hiring of staff. Others avoided the brick and mortar and opted to open plant kitchens that specialize in takeout and delivery.

They opened in hotels, in old, repurposed spaces and a few in brand new developments. Some are in Providence, others in suburban towns.

Some were years in the making. Many brought the public along on their opening journey on social media with Instagram or Facebook.

All opened with exclusivity as well as a dose of apprehension.

These are not all the restaurants that opened last year, but the ones reported on by The Journal. There are another hundred that opened in late fall which will be featured in January.

New restaurants in Providence

Palo Sagrado Bar, 3 Steeple St., Providence, (401) 419-7600, palosagradoprov.com. Bar and restaurant with a focus on mezcal and tequila. Offers a menu from Spanish-style and Mexican-inspired small sharable to the heaviest space that was a Steeple Street restaurant and most recently Pat Kelly's.

Jennie Jennie Jennie

Sea Craft, 113 Ocean Rd., Narragansett, (401) 515-7222, seacraftri.com, sits by the ocean in The Shore House hotel. It is the latest venture from the team that brought you Locanda in South Kingstown.

Cooking contest winner: RI chef brought ribs in a slow cooker and won a cooking contest on the Drew Barrymore Show

Aura's Chocolate Bar opened in Cranston at 250 East St., aurachocolatebar.com, by chocolatier and Johnson & Wales trained pastry chef Aura Fajardo-Quintero. Her cacao comes from abroad, including her native Venezuela. But she infuses chocolates with local ingredients, including Sons of Liberty whiskey, sea salt from Newport and honey from North Kingstown. Coffee milk chocolates are another homage to R.I.

Hunky Dory, 40 Market St., Warren, is the first restaurant for Sam Duling and Joanna Ray. They took over the space that was Eli's Kitchen. The menu is local, veggie-forward, with plenty of native seafood and some Southern touches from chef Duling's heritage. Fried chicken and grits live in harmony with Buffoni Farms chicken wings.

Stephanie (left) and Lindsay Haigh recently moved from Georgia and purchased Village Hearth Bakery & Cafe in Jamestown. *Bob Breidenbach/The Providence Journal*

The Village Hearth Bakery & Cafe, 2 Watson Ave., Jamestown, (401) 423-9282, villagehearthbakerycafe.com, has new owners, Stephanie and Lindsay Haigh from Georgia who have moved pizza night to Friday. Brilliant. They have made the bakery their own and spruced up the space.

Foodlove Market 1037 Aquidneck Ave, Middletown, (401) 236-8800, foodlovemarket.com, is a delight. Here you can sit and have a breakfast pastry or lunch. Or you can shop for ingredients or prepared foods. It's a genius concept for the Newport Restaurant Group which runs Hemenway's and Castle Hill. Find everything from chowders to pot pies here to take home for dinner.

Blackstone Herb + Coffee Bar, 3 Dexter St., Cumberland, blackstoneherbsandcoffeebar.com, is a vegan cafe with espresso drinks, teas and organic matchas. They also have a vegan bites menu of breakfast sandwiches and sweets, including cannoli. They participated in PVD Vegan Restaurant Week with a gluten free menu.

A variety of bottles at the tasting bar at Shepherd's Run Winery. You can pick these up in South Kingstown. But you can't get wines shipped from Napa Valley. *David DePico, The Providence Journal*

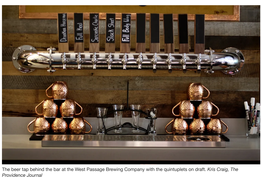
A historic South Kingstown estate, vacant for more than 8 years, has been resurrected as **Shepherd's Run winery**. It is open for wine tastings and pours by the glass at 4780 Tower Hill Rd., South Kingstown, (401) 386-4956, shepherds.run. It's a destination winery with a boutique hotel as part of the property. "Sip and stay" is their motto.

The vote for the sweetest space goes to **Sweet Marie's Tea Cottage**, 25 West Main St., North Kingstown, sweetmarietea.com. If you love the concept of afternoon tea with little sandwiches and scones and sweets, and who doesn't, this is the place for you. It's the first restaurant for Lindsey Andrews there in Wickford Village.

The Guild's Sister, a lager, and Short Schwarz, a Schwarzbier, which will be served with waterfront views in Warren. *David DePico, The Providence Journal*

The Guild Warren, 99 Water St., Warren, opened as a new 7 barrel brewhouse, taproom and gastropub on the water with panoramic views of the Palmer River. The beer is fresh and you'll find some experimental brews. It's the sister business for the Guild in Pawtucket.

West Passage Brewing Company is the first restaurant from Scott Monroe and his wife Cheryl Monroe. But it's not just a place to eat. It's a brewpub where they make beer, too, and it's been a while since R.I. added a new one. It's in a space at 7835 Post Rd., North Kingstown, (401) 661-9662, westpassagebrewing.com.



The beer tap behind the bar at the West Passage Brewing Company with the quintuplets on draft. *Kris Craig, The Providence Journal*

The Reef restaurant at 10 Howard Wharf, Newport, knows it has one of the best waterfront sights around. Now new owners are seeking to make the food and service as good as the view. There's also parking at 10 Howard Wharf, (401) 324-5852, thereefnewport.com.

Rhode Island restaurants that reopened in 2021

Scialo's Bros. Bakery reopened in May, still run by Carol Gaeta, but with a new owner, 257 Atwells Ave., Providence, (401) 421-0986.

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Hometown Cafe & Poke Bar reopened on 185 Camp St., Providence, (401) 868-1247, hometownpoke.com.

110 Grill was open for less than a month last year when the pandemic upended it. Now it's reopened next to the Residence Inn at 111 Fountain St., Providence, (401) 270-1160, 110grill.com/providence-ri.

These restaurants moved locations in 2021

The Beef Barn is now at 200 Industrial Drive, North Smithfield, (401) 762-9880, thebeefbarn.com.

Ceremony, 406 Brook St., ceremonypvd.com, left Thayer Street for a bigger space. Owner Michelle Cheng now has almost 50 seats and more bar seating, as well as room for private tea services where guests do tastings. She's added a market component that proved popular during the pandemic. It's a whole new business, with an alcohol license. Ceremony has sake and sake cocktails, local beers and natural and organic wines.

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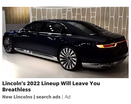

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