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RESTAURANT BOOM SHOWS NO SLOWING

AN ALMOST UNCOUNTABLE AMOUNT OF NEW PLACES TO EAT OPENED LAST YEAR IN MANCHESTER... AND THERE ARE STILL MANY MORE TO COME THIS YEAR

By **EMILY HEWARD**

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AFTER a prolific run of new establishments in 2016, Manchester is quickly establishing itself as a major player on the food and drink stage.

Will the avalanche of new restaurants slow down in 2017? It seems the bubble hasn't burst yet, as next year the city welcomes an exciting new troupe of eateries, from casual bistros serving hearty meals to 17-course-tasting menus with no cutlery.

Here's our round up of Manchester's biggest restaurant, cafe and bar openings to look forward to in 2017.

MAHIKI BAR, Central Street

What: Owned by the former United player Gary Neville, Mahiki Manchester will be the third of its kind, with others in London and Dubai attracting celebs such as

Prince Harry, Little Mix, One Direction and Manchester's own Michelle Keegan.

■ **When:** Spring 2017

■ **Where:** Albert Estate, Central Street

THE IVY

What: London celebrity hotspot The Ivy appears to have set its sights on Manchester, after they posted a video on Facebook of Kylie Minogue wishing the city a Merry Christmas, adding: "We look forward to seeing you in 2017!" The post is understood to refer to a new branch of The Ivy Cafe, a spin-off of the original restaurant, which celebrates its 100th anniversary next year.

■ **Where:** A spokeswoman confirmed the group was actively looking for suitable sites in Manchester but declined to reveal any more about the plans. We'll have to wait and see

what Kylie says.

■ **When:** TBC

THE RABBIT IN THE MOON,

National Football Museum

What: Directed by Michael O'Hare with head chef Luke Cockerill, the pair are opening what they call a 'space-age Asian' restaurant in the National Football Museum, formerly the Urbis. And Manchester can expect two more restaurants from the Michelin-starred chef in the future, which will be based inside the ex-Manchester Utd footballers Gary Neville and Ryan Giggs' St Michael's development. The Man Who Fell To

Earth will be a more formal affair, with an a la carte menu set in a grand Parisian ballroom-style restaurant. Are Friends Electric is more relaxed; a rooftop restaurant which will feature a kitchen-style service, where diners can sit at the pass and watch chefs plate up.

■ **When:** Soft launches through December 2016, full launch in January

■ **Where:** Urbis Building, Cathedral Gardens, Todd St, M4 3BG



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THE REAL JUNK FOOD PROJECT, Ancoats

What: The Manchester branch of the Real Junk Food Project has launched a Crowdfunder to set up the city's first 'food waste' restaurant, which they plan to open in Ancoats. The nationwide project intercepts food that would otherwise go in the bin, sourced from wholesalers, supermarkets and restaurants. The Manchester arm of the movement, which is directed by Corin Bell and the kitchen headed up by former Aumbry chef McTague, has been on the hunt for a permanent space since their hub at The Wonder Inn fell through. Now, the team have found a new venue in the city centre district, the exact location of which is still under-wraps, where they can set up the pay-as-you-feel eatery subject to reaching their £20,000 target.

- **When:** TBC
- **Where:** TBC

BEASTRO, Spinningfields

What: Acclaimed street food traders Bangers and Bacon will be scaling up their operation as they open their first restaurant BEASTro, after being crowned the winners of Spinningfields' street food start-up competition at The Kitchens. After battling it out with five other tenants, pork purveyors James and Heather Taylor and Richard Brown will now get to transform the whole of their side of the Leftbank canteen into a permanent bistro.

- **When:** January 2017
- **Where:** Leftbank, The Kitchens, Spinningfields

CENTRAL BARK, Roundthorn Industrial Estate

What: It was inevitable, wasn't it? Altrincham based pet care company Manchester Dog Care has revealed plans to open the city's first dog cafe. Run by husband and wife team Tony and Tania Golden, 'Central Bark' will

be set inside a huge 14,000 square foot warehouse, converted into a combined dog café, grooming, boarding and day care complex.

- **Where:** Roundthorn industrial estate by Wythenshawe hospital
- **When:** February 2017

GOOSE FAT AND WILD GARLIC, Ancoats

What: Adam Regan and Sophie Jarvis are building a bit of a food and drink empire in Ancoats. As well as their new burrito joint Mexica and their three-storey music, restaurant and bar Stage and Radio, the pair are working on a restaurant called Goose Fat and Wild Garlic. Also housed in the glass-fronted venue will be their on-site micro brewery Fundamentum.

- **When:** Spring 2017
- **Where:** Cutting Room Square, Ancoats

MY THAI, Northern Quarter

What: Street-food inspired restaurant My Thai is bringing is planning it's second Manchester site - in the Northern Quarter. The cheap and cheerful diner already has one site in Manchester on John Dalton Street, and several across the north, including York, Leeds and Bradford. Their second Manc home will be unit G19 Tib Street - formerly home to a string of delis including Wood and Fyg.

- **When:** Early 2017
- **Where:** Unit G19 Tib Street, Northern Quarter

MACKIE MAYOR, Northern Quarter

What: You must've heard the news by now - the food and drink wizards at Altrincham Market are heading to the city centre to work their restorative magic on the Northern Quarter's dilapidated Mackie Mayor. Directors Nick and Jen will be keeping the same winning combo of traders, with a couple of new additions including Nationale 7, serving rotisserie chicken, and Fin, the new seafood venture from Tender Cow.

- **When:** Spring 2017

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■ **Where:** The Mackie Mayor, Swan Street, Manchester

PROOVE PIZZA, West Didsbury

What: The Sheffield-based wood fired pizza crew are planning their first Manchester venture in the South Manchester suburb of Didsbury. Currently trading at the Manchester Food and Drink Festival (we've already checked them out, and it looks promising), Proove will also serve a selection of Italian deep-fried specialities.

■ **When:** TBC

■ **Where:** West Didsbury, opposite the Met

BEER CAFE ON FOG LANE, Burnage

What: Based to the East of the buzzing Burton Road, Fog Lane is often regarded as being on the fringes of the food and drink scene. But a new beer cafe hopes to change that. Favouring quality craft beers, this new spot hopes to provide a quality watering hole for the community.

■ **When:** TBC

■ **Where:** Next to Tutku Cafe, Fog Lane,

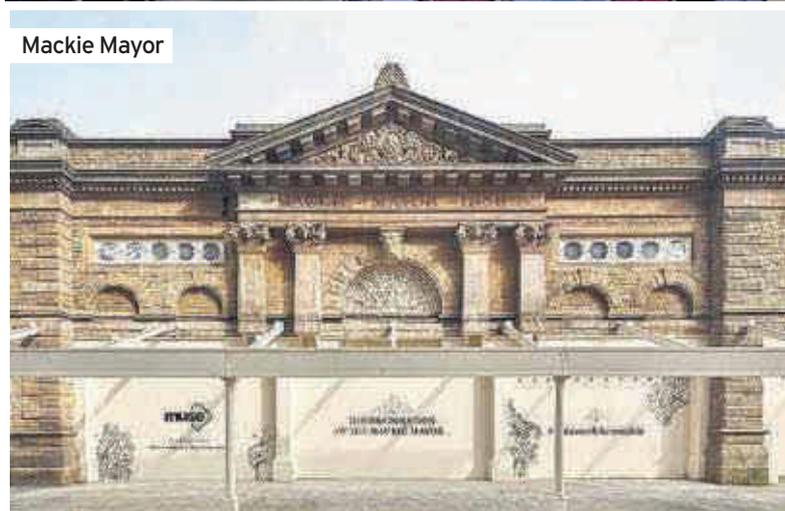


EASYCOFFEE, everywhere
What??? It's not just budget flights that Sir Stelios is dishing out, now the low-cost champion is turning his hand to cafes as he plans an 'aggressive roll out' for Manchester in 2017. Where: The exact venues are yet to be confirmed, but an easyCoffee spokesperson estimated no less than TWENTY sites could be heading our way.
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