3 DC Dining Spots Named Among Best New Restaurants In America

Three newly opened DC eateries were ranked among the 40 best in America, according to a new list by Esquire magazine.

WASHINGTON, DC — The District's high-end restaurants are bouncing back from the depths of the pandemic — and three DC eateries got an extra boost this week, when they were ranked among the best new restaurants in America.

Esquire magazine released this year's version of its annual list on Thursday, comprising 40 newly opened restaurants from across the United States.

Here are the three Washington, D.C., spots that made it:
No. 23 Moon Rabbit, 801 Wharf Street SW, Washington, D.C.

Esquire says: "When the fish sandwich arrived — a catfish fillet, delicately flaky in the middle, crunchy on the outside, scented with turmeric and lemongrass, hugged by a pillowy curry milk-bread bun — it was devoured, and immediately we asked for another, and some extra milk bread, too. We did the same with the simple charred cabbage with pineapple. Chef Kevin Tien's dishes are an exploration not only of Vietnamese cuisine but of maximum craveability."

A Washington Post critic wrote of Moon Rabbit a year ago: "The roll has a rival for my affection: slices of brioche, stacked Once Upon a Mattress-style on a plate with a rich slather of chicken liver pâté and precise dots of apricot jam. My idea of nirvana is to drag my knife through the pâté and jam so one informs the other."