FOOD&WINE

Best Bites of 2021

From a TikTok-inspired wrap to butter terrine, these dishes stood out this year to F&W Restaurant Editor Khushbu Shah.

By Khushbu Shah | September 17, 2021

Ga Chien

Moon Rabbit, *Washington, D.C.*

Credit: Alex Lau

We are living through a fried chicken renaissance. The sheer amount of excellent fried chicken available across the country is overwhelming, but at his new restaurant, Moon Rabbit, chef Kevin Tien (a 2018 *Food & Wine* Best New Chef) makes a version that stands out from the crowd–and not just because he serves the meat still attached to the bird's claws. The ga chien pulls from Tien's Vietnamese heritage and is lacquered in a chile-maple fish sauce, almost as if the chicken has been candied. The outer layer shatters with each bite, revealing tender, moist meat.