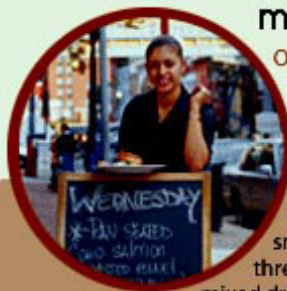


matchbox, as seen in

**Southern
Living**



On a special date or want to feel like a Beltway insider? Come here and order the salty and savory Prosciutto White pizza, a mix of prosciutto, kalamata olives, garlic, ricotta, mozzarella, and extra-virgin olive oil (\$11 for a small). For fun, get a plate of three mini burgers (\$7) and a mixed drink called the Ginger Snap,

a concoction of pineapple rum, ginger, lemon juice, and Sprite (\$7). 713 H Street NW.; (202) 289-4441.

Cheap Eat #5: Capital Q Texas BBQ I asked how hot the sauces got at this D.C. landmark, just a few doors down from Matchbox. "We got mild and spicy," said the general manager from behind the counter, "but if that isn't hot enough for you, I'll fix something that will kill you!" Luckily, I tried the smoky beef brisket sandwich (\$6.50) before I sampled a spoonful of the "kill-you" sauce (free). I used the homemade banana pudding (\$2) to extinguish my tongue, so I have no idea whether it tastes good or not. Order it before taking them up on their saucy death threats. 707 H Street NW.; (202) 347-8396.

Cheap Eat #6: The Burro This restaurant is obviously a favorite for The George Washington University students, and it sits in power digs behind The Mall at 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue. Try the fish taco, a masterpiece of spice, onion, corn crunch, lime-cilantro slaw, pico de gallo, and mahi mahi (\$2.95). Fresh produce reigns in the Bean Basic gourmet burrito--low-fat black beans, rice, lettuce, and tomato (\$3.95; add grilled spinach or vegetables for another 95 cents). 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.; (202) 293-9449.



Cheap Eat #7: Left Bank The space age and minimalist modern meet at this spare, elegant restaurant. The setting and service give such an expensive feel that you'll think the menu prices are a misprint. Sandwiches begin at \$1. A buck gets you a cheese sandwich with your choice of prosciutto or applewood-smoked bacon. The most expensive sandwich is the grilled steak with sautéed onions and bitter greens on a whole wheat baguette (\$10). The Black Angus sirloin burger comes topped with mushrooms, cheese, bacon, and grilled onions, making it well worth its price tag (\$8). 2424 18th Street NW.; (202) 464-2100.

Top Left Image: \$11 gets you a savory meal at Matchbox, a trendy new restaurant in the shadow of Chinatown's Friendship Arch.

Below: \$2.95 will score The Burro's amazingly fresh fish taco, the dish hungry students at The George Washington University love to gobble.