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## Openings



The latest and fifth restaurant from Mexican kitchen and bar group **Benito's Hat** has opened in Farringdon, after the success of other group outlets at Goodge Street, Covent Garden, Oxford Circus and Kings Cross. The new branch is the first venture into the City and signals the beginning of a brand roll out prompted by a £1.4 million investment from Calculus Capital earlier last year. Co-owner Ben Fordham, a former City lawyer, plans to double the Benito's Hat estate within 12 months, including further City sites and hopes for the first branch outside of the capital.

London's Chelsea institution, **Big Easy Bar.B.Q & Crabshack** is opening a new restaurant in Maiden Lane in February. Founder Paul Corrett said: "Taking inspiration from our King's Road sibling it will offer a serious evolution of the beloved 'crabshack' in a more urban West End setting. The new venue will provide the most authentic, American fresh-smoked Bar.B.Q, seafood, cocktail and drinks offer in the UK with executive chef Kenny Callaghan in the kitchen."

**Roka**, Rainer Becker's contemporary Japanese robatayaki restaurants, will open two new London locations in 2014. Roka Mayfair will launch in February followed by Roka

Aldwych in the summer. Becker spent the better part of a decade in Japan and his journey resulted in an international restaurant group founded in 2004 with both Zuma and Roka restaurants.