

LA GUIDE

Meet LA's New Wave Of Korean Food

3 of the most exciting, new Korean pop-ups and restaurants in LA.

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SAVE

New experiences have been hard for me to come by in quarantine. I wake up at the same time every morning (ten minutes after my alarm goes off). Breakfast never changes (it's always some nutrient-devoid, ultra-sugary cereal, like Captain Crunch), then I'm hurried headfirst into a ceaseless combination of staring at the computer, seeing at most two or three friends, then trying to decide if it's finally the day I commit to watching *I May Destroy You*.

Which is why these three specific Korean restaurants and pop-ups feel like such a needed breath of fresh air. In a city rich with small mom-and-pop shops selling classic versions of [bibimbap](#), [galbi-jjim](#), and [knife-cut noodles](#), the spots on this guide are in an entirely new class altogether. They all serve Korean food, obviously, but with a twist - the flavors and ingredients are familiar, but balanced with tastes that are new, exciting, and completely novel. Unlike the fact I was 15 minutes late to this morning's all hands meeting, which everyone *definitely* noticed.

The Spots

Naemo

KOREAN • KOREATOWN

PERFECT FOR: BIRTHDAYS FINE DINING FIRST/EARLY IN THE GAME DATES SERIOUS TAKE-OUT OPERATION SMALL PLATES UNIQUE DINING EXPERIENCE

\$\$\$

VIEW WEBSITE EARN 3X POINTS SAVE

Once a month, Korean-American restaurant vet, Arnold Byun (who cut his teeth at fine dining NYC restaurants such as [Eleven Madison Park](#) and [Atera](#)), works to create a brand-new dosirak meal at his pop-up, Naemo. Sometimes that meal is prepared solo, other times with a partner like [Hanchic](#), but what stays consistent is his commitment to innovation and reimaged Korean cuisine. Takeout boxes come wrapped in a beautiful, gauze-y cloak. Grilled mackerel rests on charred, smokey confit mushrooms, and raw flounder is dressed in a bright gochujang vinaigrette that leaves a tangy taste on the tongue. A meal from here is sort of like seeing your coworker at the grocery store, or this clip of [Lester from The Simpsons](#) - at once, so nostalgic and familiar, but also a completely new experience. Naemo is a takeout-only spot, so head to their [website](#) to place an order.



PHOTO CREDIT: NAEMO



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RATINGS FAQ

Shiku

KOREAN • DOWNTOWN LA

PERFECT FOR: DINING SOLO LUNCH QUICK EATS

\$\$\$ 317 S. BROADWAY, LOS ANGELES

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Bursting with creativity and experimentation, this Grand Central Market stall feels like a real incubator for Korean food. Kwang Uh and Mina Park (formerly of [Baroo](#) and [Baroo Canteen](#)) use this space to both serve traditional favorites, like galbi jjim and doenjang-marinated chicken, while also offering an array of unique banchan you won't be able to find anywhere else in the city. If you're familiar with the duo's previous projects, you'll know that fermentation innovation is woven into their DNA. There are two kimchis on the menu - one slightly salty and made in the style of Jeolla province, and one stir-fried with perilla seeds and oil. Containers are filled to the brim with a spicy tuna dish that features bright-red fish, potatoes, and carrots, and is packed with umami. And my favorite, the myulchi saewoo bokkeum, is made crunchy with dried shrimp while still having sweet and savory flavors from the shishito peppers and walnuts. It's a perfect snack for a long car ride home, or staring at your phone for hours, deciding whether or not enough time has passed to text your friend back. Shiku is takeout only, head to their [website](#) to place an order.



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Perilla

KOREAN • KOREATOWN

PERFECT FOR: IMPRESSING OUT OF TOWNERS LITERALLY EVERYONE SERIOUS TAKE-OUT OPERATION

\$\$\$ 661 S HARVARD BLVD, LOS ANGELES

VIEW WEBSITE EARN 3X POINTS SAVE

Bright orange daikon kimchi, perfectly rolled stuffed eggs stuffed with seaweed, and the prettiest box of seasoned rice we've ever seen - looking through the menu at this Korean banchan pop-up is like flipping through the world's most beautiful coffee table book. But Perilla's about more than just looks - chef Jihee Kim takes what is normally considered as side dishes, gives it a Cinderella-esque transformation (we're partial to the Brandy version), and turns them into the stars of the show. She utilizes fresh, local produce found at farmers' markets and creates seasonal dishes like spicy summer squash braised with garlic in chili oil, green bean muchim with creamy garlic confit and ground sesame seeds, and charred okra marinated overnight in soy vinegar. Each dish is bright, refreshing, and completely what you need after a long day of deleting all of your tweets. Perilla is takeout only, head to their [website](#) to place an order.



PHOTO CREDIT: PERILLA

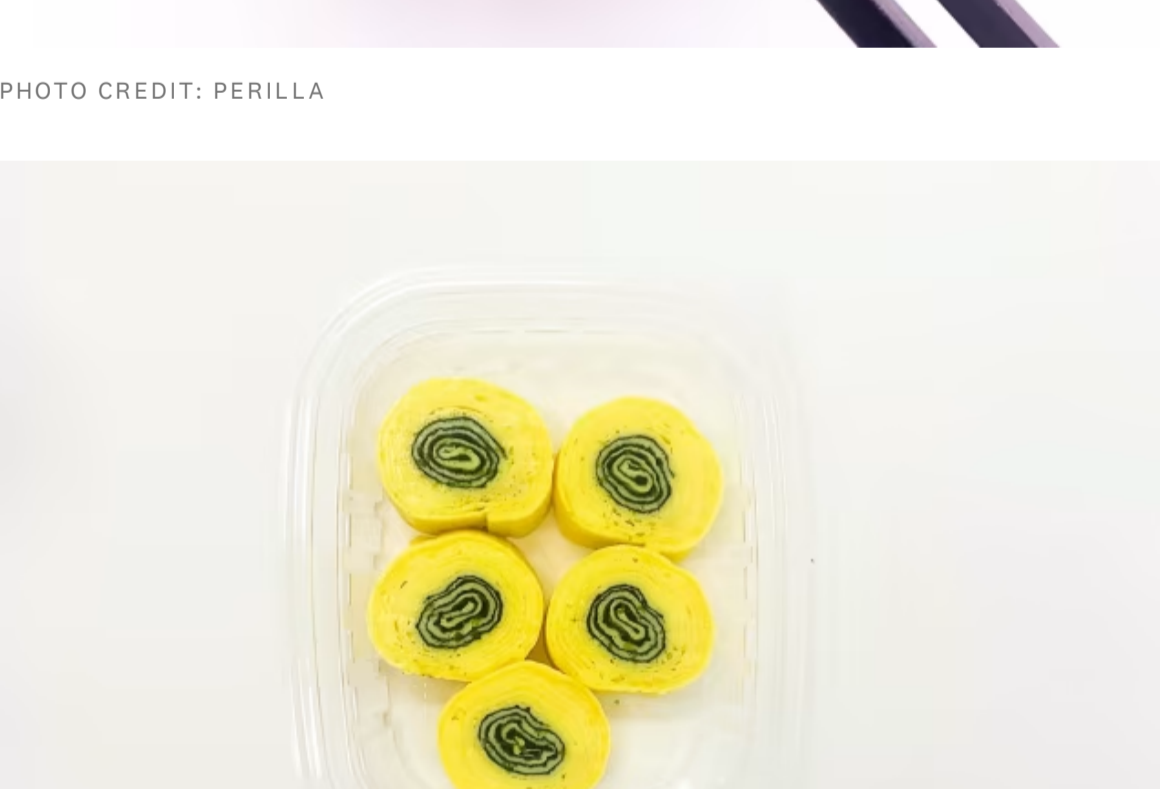


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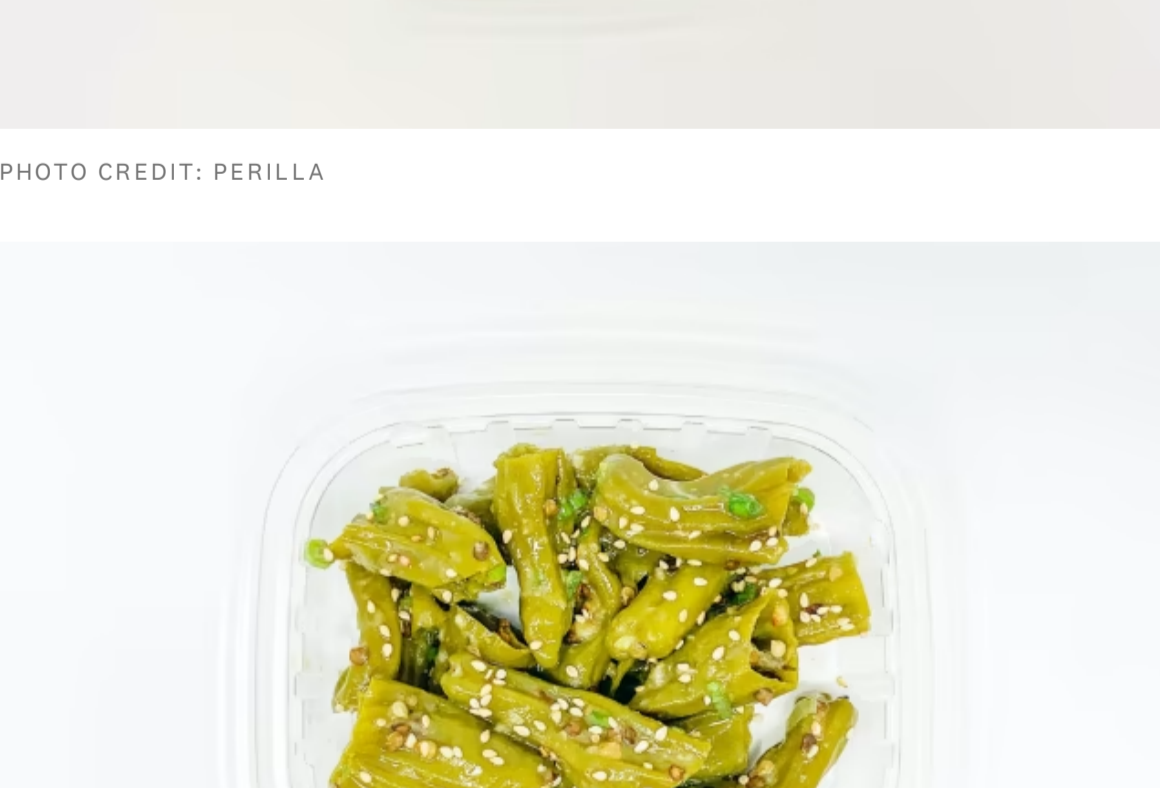


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The Koreatown Takeout & Delivery Guide
KOREATOWN
39 great options for takeout and delivery in Koreatown.



GUIDE

Where To Eat KBBQ Outside In LA
7 great Korean BBQ spots in LA that have outdoor seating and grills.



FEATURE

In Order To Survive, Koreatown's Bulgogi Hut Bets On Fried Chicken
Bulgogi Hut has survived COVID regulations, closed dining rooms, and fluctuating meat prices. Now, it's forced to reboot as a brand-new restaurant.



GUIDE

LA's New Restaurant Openings
All the LA restaurant openings you should know about.

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