



ZACH THAN

...n concept came out of a desire for convenience.

basil pesto teriyaki) are just a few examples of how unlikely flavors can come together deliciously.

ASIAN FUSION
66S Fusion

Brooklyn
Asian Fusion may be the first thing that comes to mind when thinking of “fusion restaurants,” which started as far back as the 1960s, but really came into full force in the ’80s and ’90s when non-Asian chefs started adding Eastern ingredients to their dishes, mostly within French cuisine. Now it can mean anything from a combination of different Asian cuisines to a combo of Asian and American tastes. 66S Fusion in Brooklyn offers more Japanese/American choices, from burgers to sashimi to filet mignon with shishito peppers.

Miyabi II Asian Fusion
Staten Island

Known for its extremely fresh fish and the best sushi on the island, if not in the city, Miyabi II is a must-visit. The diverse menu includes Malaysian curry, Thai red snapper, hibachi and bento boxes, truly living up to its name in both hot and cold options.

MEXICAN + ITALIAN
Emilia’s Pizza

Astoria, Queens
There has been many a late night (or early morning) where the grand debate between “pizza or tacos?” has taken place. But luckily both of your drunk cravings can be satisfied in this city. From quesadillas, burritos and tacos made with hand-rolled corn tortillas, to a wide variety of pizza flavors (including chorizo and jalapeno toppings), comfort food has a whole new meaning at Emilia’s.

Great Burrito
Flatiron District, Manhattan

A bit of a hole-in-the-wall, Great Burrito’s sign can make you do a double-take. The self-explanatory name is right in the middle, and then immediately to the left it reads “Italian Pizza” in large letters. Still, don’t be fooled by its identity crisis. Find authentic Mexican street food here, in large (and cheap) portions, alongside pizza pies if you find yourself craving a slice to wash down your torta. Open 24 hours, and cash only.

nally opened in Tokyo in 1985, where the open-kitchen concept was introduced, and five years later came to NYC. Watch as chefs cook your meals of spaghetti and mozzarella with shiitake mushrooms, or linguine with fresh sea urchin and basil.

Natsumi Tapas
Gramercy Park, Manhattan

Restaurateur Barbara Matsumura brought together Italian chef Andrea Tiberi and sushi chef Hiroyuki Nagao to create a menu that combines the tastes of Italian and Japanese cuisine in truly unique ways. Green tea ricotta flatbread, chicken katsu penne and Ciao Meatballs (with

might be shocked to hear “Pizza Palace.” But this is actually a common thread in the neighborhood known for its Greek influences (see: Romano’s Famous Pizza, Gyro Uno, Boston Pizza). Most pizzerias in Astoria serve gyros and platters alongside pies, and most say — perhaps unsurprisingly — that they are the best picks at these restaurants, named for something else entirely.

JAPANESE + ITALIAN
Basta Pasta

Chelsea, Manhattan
For a more high-end fusion experience (and no option to order-in), try Basta Pasta in Chelsea. The restaurant origi-

HEALTH CARE PLEDGED TO ALL: MAYOR

‘NYC Care’ aims to aid the uninsured

BY NICOLE BROWN
nicole.brown@amny.com

All New York City residents will be guaranteed health care under a city program, Mayor Bill de Blasio said Tuesday.

NYC Care will aim to reach 600,000 New Yorkers who don’t now have health insurance, de Blasio said. Those people include “young invincibles,” who think they don’t need health care; people who can’t afford the plans now offered by the public health insurance exchange, MetroPlus; and “undocumented New Yorkers” who are not eligible for the exchange, the mayor said.

The program will begin operating this year, and New Yorkers will be able to call 311 or go to the nyc.gov website to apply for a card and get the name of an NYC Health + Hospitals primary care doctor. Information on the immigration status of NYC Care enrollees “will not be accessible” to the federal government, the mayor said.

Participants will have guaranteed access to specialists, prescriptions, mental health services, substance abuse services and more, de Blasio said.

The mayor did not give specifics about the cost of the care but said there will be “a sliding scale,” and if someone is not able to pay at all, it will be free. “No one will be turned away,” he said at a news conference Tuesday morning.

NYC Care will not be offered as an insurance plan. Instead, the city will be “paying for direct, comprehensive care (not just ERs) for people who can’t afford it, or can’t get comprehensive Medicaid,” de Blasio spokesman Eric Phillips said on Twitter.

The city also will work toward enrolling more people who are eligible for and able to afford MetroPlus, but enrollment is not required to benefit from NYC Care.

The program has an expected annual cost of \$100 million, but de Blasio noted the city will not raise taxes to pay for it.

“There is a lot of money right now in our health system that can be used a lot better,” he said, explaining that if the city puts more money toward providing preventive care, fewer people will end up in emergency rooms, where care is much more expensive.

The mayor noted that Health + Hospitals is running on a surplus, which also is “part of what’s allowing for” NYC Care.

De Blasio contrasted his plan with efforts in Washington, D.C., to roll back the Affordable Care Act, former president Barack Obama’s signature program that President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans have vowed to repeal.

“Lots of time and energy has been put into taking away health care from tens of millions of people,” he said. “We’re going the opposite direction. We’re going to get it to everyone.”

A federal judge in Texas ruled in December that the ACA’s individual mandate, which requires coverage, is unconstitutional, and therefore the law could not stand. However, the ACA remains in effect while being challenged by several state attorneys general.

De Blasio’s announcement comes a day after the governor vowed to counter actions in Washington. Andrew M. Cuomo on Monday urged the legislature to pass the Reproductive Health Act and the Contraceptive Care Act in view of any threat to Roe v. Wade.