

SEE WHAT'S *Brewing in Jolo*

Experience Tea at the Toad in Selma

Quantum Toad in Downtown Selma opened in February of 2024, and has quickly become a local hot spot. Owned and operated by Rob Russotti and his partner Emeric Harney (of Harney & Sons Fine Teas), the Toad serves up tea-infused cocktails in a futuristic environment. Working and traveling for the tea company, they had already developed recipes for business partners and themed events, featuring Harney & Sons teas. They knew they could uniquely infuse Emeric's exposure in the food and beverage industry with Rob's exposure in the bar world. All of that made them confident they had a concept unlike anything else in Johnston County. There are always 2 tea-themed drinks on the mainstay menu and 2 new tea-themed concoctions on the rotating seasonal menu. Rob and Emeric are working on expanding the bar out in its current footprint since they own the buildings on either side of it. They are also interested in expanding the back patio and putting a food container concept in the back. They want more seating and space for live music. They are hoping to start the build out early this year. And on the other side of the bar, they have plans for a Harney & Sons tea shop.



The Station, Local Fresh Food + Provisions

The Station is a cohesive and expertly curated multi-tenant experience in the heart of Downtown Clayton with a focus on food, beverage, and locally sourced grocery items and provisions. Rooted in History. Revitalized for the Community. This space houses opportunity for multiple local businesses, supporting small and giving back at every turn. Imagine if a food hall, farmers market, and co-op space had a baby... that's The Station.

The ground floor is home to Crescendo, a full-service restaurant & bar with live music. The second and third floors are fully enclosed suites, homes to individual businesses selling a variety of goods, crafts, and services. The main room, the showstopper area on the second floor, is The Station Market; over 3,000 ft. of open-air farmers market-type offerings. A unique foodie destination!



Flue-Cured Bourbon in Benson

Benson-based Broadslab Distillery has been offering ‘shine tours and tastings since 2015. Master Distiller Jeremy Norris is what you’d call the “real deal”, with moonshining in his roots and a recipe that goes back five generations. He recently debuted a new line of products: flue-cured bourbons and whiskeys. The products have been in pre-production since 2021 and Jeremy currently has a patent pending on a one-of-a-kind process for aging whiskey. He fills and stores the whiskey in new American white oak barrels, then moves the barrels to a neighboring farm. The whiskey barrels are rested in the tobacco barn during the leaf drying stage of the curing process. The intense heat and presence of tobacco during the curing process creates a distinct and accelerated aging timeline, which makes the whiskeys truly unique. Stop by Broadslab for a tour and tasting.



Clayton's “Top Chef”, Aaktun's Oscar Diaz

Did you see Bravo TV’s newest season of Top Chef? If so, you’ve likely spotted James Beard-nominated and Michelin-recommended chef Oscar Diaz bringing bold flavors and thoughtful technique to the competition. Known for blending tradition with creativity, Diaz has built a reputation across the Triangle for crafting dishes that feel both refined and deeply rooted in culture. That same approach comes to life at Aaktun in Downtown Clayton, where his take on Tulum-inspired dining is equal parts vibrant, approachable, and unexpected. The beverage program adds another layer to the experience, featuring playful cocktails alongside thoughtfully crafted coffee drinks that start flowing early each morning at 6 am. Whether you’re stopping in for a quick breakfast to-go or settling in for a full evening out, it’s a place that reflects Diaz’s signature style. Aaktun offers elevated dining with an affordable price tag; visit JoCo and try it for yourself!



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