

GOLD COAST

MARCH 2016

Around Town

JERSEY CITY

COMPILED BY TARA HOPFENSPIRGER

JERSEY GIRLS
FOOD TOURS

LOCAL COOKING
CLASSES

Around Town

COMPILED BY

JERSEY CITY

ENJOY

YOUR MEAL

CHOC-O-PAIN

French-born owner of Choc-O-Pain Clémence Danko has brought an authentic, French café experience to downtown Jersey City. In an eclectic and comfortable atmosphere with both indoor and outside seating, Choc-O-Pain offers homemade sourdough-based breads, baked fresh every day the traditional European way. The bakery serves up signature organic pain d'autre-



fois, baguettes, popular multigrain pain au levain aux cereals and, a customer favorite, banana sourdough. Sweet treats offered include freshly baked croissants, chocopains, tartes, macarons and other desserts. Pair your pastries with unsweetened cappuccino from world-renowned coffee roasting company La Colombe Coffee. If you are on the hunt for hard-to-find French specialty items, make sure to check out Choc-O-Pain's Epicerie, a small shop within the bakery/café. **530 Jersey Ave., (201) 435-2462, chocopainbakery.com**

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LIVE THE LIFE YOU LOVE

VIVI GIRL SHOP

When trying to come up with a name for their shop, owners and Jersey City residents Mark and Marie Romano liked the power behind "vivi," which means "to live" in Latin. Vivi Girl Shop offers vintage-inspired brands such as Dear Creatures, J.O.A and Raggy, along with a great selection of feminine dresses, tops, skirts, bags, accessories and more. Marie says she doesn't like to follow trends, but instead sticks to simple silhouettes and neutral pieces that can be worn in any season, with pops of prints and colors to keep the selection lively. The shop also carries Lolita and Royal Apothic perfumes, hand creams and candles - perfect gifts for the women in your life. **512-A Jersey Ave., (201) 706-3411, vivigirlshop.com**



START A TAB

GREENE HOOK

Opening this past September, Greene Hook has proven to be a favorite hotspot in the Paulus Hook neighborhood. Owners Bill Gray and Rich McKeever have some experience behind them, as Gray is also owner of the Light Horse Tavern. But Greene Hook shines on its own as a modern American restaurant that offers unique dishes created and implemented by acclaimed executive chef David Drake and chef de cuisine Joe Ferrinato. Brunch, lunch, dinner and late-night dishes include a mix of upscale and simple: from charred lamb tartare and beef empanadas to a good ol' bucket of fried chicken with a side of mac and cheese. The restaurant seats more than 100, while leaving plenty of room for the well-utilized shuffleboard table. Patrons can enjoy specialty cocktails and craft beers, and even join the shuffleboard league that plays on Sundays and Tuesdays. **70 Greene St., (201) 721-5062, greenehook.com**



CYCLE BACK TO BASICS

CITI BIKE JERSEY CITY

Launched this past September, Citi Bike Jersey City offers 350 bikes at 35 stations citywide. The only bike-share system in a mid-size city to operate without public funding, the program is also fully interoperable with New York City's Citi Bike. This allows those who commute or travel between the two cities to use their memberships in both places. Citi Bike Jersey City provides an environmentally friendly, healthy and affordable transportation option for both residents and visitors. Riders can sign up for membership online; members are entitled to unlimited use of Citi Bikes for individual bike trips up to 45 minutes. Pricing is the same in both New Jersey and New York, with a \$149 annual membership fee. Day, weekly and corporate memberships are also available. **citibike.com**