



Washington, D.C.

THE CHEF SIDE HUSTLE

Pull up to an unassuming Falls Church, Virginia, strip mall and you'll find a tiny Mexican restaurant owned by the son of the woman who runs the Plaza Latina Market next door. That son, it turns out, is James Beard–nominated chef Victor Albisu of D.C.'s decidedly *not* strip-mall-situated Latin restaurant Del Campo, so whatever comes to mind when you hear “strip-mall tacos,” **Taco Bamba** is not that: It's the most delicious (and, sure, maybe only) crispy tongue and tripe or spicy braised goat you can enjoy overlooking a parking lot. If you have time, head to the larger location, in nearby Vienna, which features a lush bar—think Mexican-soda-inspired cocktails—and rotating tacos from the best chefs in D.C. (whom you might see on the stools next to you, ordering another *bulgogi* taco).—ANNA PEELE