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Death toll rising: West Seattle's Beato is going to restaurant heaven in an open casket

Special menu and discounts this week

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[Beato](#) [0] is closing its doors this week, which means two things: First, that West Seattle is out a sweet little Italian restaurant. Second, that too many bodies have piled up to further avoid looking at this year's restaurant death toll.

In about 10 minutes I came up with a list of a dozen restaurants that have closed around Seattle this past year. I would love to be able to pull out that old industry adage -- that 90 percent of new restaurants fail within their first year -- to reassure myself that it's just natural. Maybe they were statistically doomed anyway.

But that statistic [has been debunked](#) [1] as a myth, and even if it were true, I could only come up with one spot on my list, Pike's Bar & Grill, that had yet to reach its first birthday. Only a few -- Beato, Veil and Qube (which, ironically, I wrote up earlier this year for its sweep of our [People's Picks](#) [2] awards) -- were in the two-year range.

The rest had become places we thought we could rely on. Marjorie, Mistral, Crave, Cascadia, Coupage, Blackbird Bistro, Trader Vic's in Bellevue and the dear Honey Bear Bakery in Ravenna -- I think they all came as a bit of a surprise.

But it's not all doom and gloom. Ethan Stowell is opening his fourth, Anchovies & Olives; the old Qube space is soon to be occupied by a new [Tamarind Tree](#) [2]; [Purple Café & Wine Bar](#) [2] offshoot Barrio is on track to open in new [Capitol Hill developments](#) [2] along with Oddfellows (Linda Derschang/Ericka Burke) and Molly Moon's.

Ballard is getting [another sushi restaurant](#) [3] and Bellevue will have [El Gaucho](#) [3] and [Pearl](#), while downtown Seattle will have reached a new level of I-don't-know-what with the arrival of a Hard Rock Café next year.

As for Beato, it's definitely worth dropping in to say goodbye. Though they don't close until Thursday, they're starting today (Nov. 11) with special menu items, a discounted four-course tasting menu with wine pairings, and 30 percent off on all bottles of wine.

Go pay your final respects, and if there is anywhere else you value eating in this city, please go pay them a visit as well, and maybe your next meal there won't be your last.

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